



Shihabi becomes U.N. president

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After spending decades as a low-key player in the U.N. system, Saudi Arabia stepped into the spotlight Tuesday with the election of its ambassador, Samir S. Shihabi, as General Assembly president. Born a Palestinian in Jerusalem in 1925, Mr. Shihabi is the most active Saudi diplomat in the U.N. system, representing a kingdom that has usually been content to play a quiet back seat role in the world body. But Saudi Arabia's central role in the anti-Iraq coalition seems to have brought the kingdom into the diplomatic fast lane. In fact, Mr. Shihabi only entered the race for the General Assembly presidency after Yemen tossed its U.N. ambassador's hat into the ring. From his seat on the Security Council, Yemeni Ambassador Abdulla Saleh Al Ashtal often infuriated the Saudis by seeking to moderate the anti-Iraq initiatives of the United States and Britain. In the secret balloting on Tuesday, Mr. Shihabi won with 83 votes out of 150 cast. Mr. Ashtal came in third with 20 votes, after Papua New Guinea's foreign minister, Michael Somare, who received 47 votes. Saudi Arabia's U.N. mission played host in a lavish "national day" reception on Monday evening. In fact, Saudi Arabia's national day is not until next Monday.

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U.S. offers compromise to Israel

CAIRO (Agencies) — The U.S. administration has offered Israel a compromise on loan guarantees to end a bitter row which threatens to complicate Middle East peace efforts.

A senior U.S. official, travelling with Secretary of State James Baker to Cairo Tuesday, said a six-point plan included a promise that the administration would not ask Congress for a second delay on Israel's request for the guarantee.

The United States would also renege the Jewish state for the extra costs of any borrowing at higher interest rates as a result of the present four-month delay, he added.

Mr. Baker drew up the plan during two days of inconclusive talks with Israeli leaders on the loans dispute and arrangements for an Arab-Israeli peace conference in October.

The official said the proposal was the furthest Washington would go towards answering Israel's request for guaranteeing \$10 billion without forcing Arab states away from the peace conference.

"I don't want to indicate one inch of flexibility beyond the six points... which are deemed forthcoming," he said.

Even if Israel accepted the proposal and waited until January, the loan guarantees would not be unconditional. He gave a strong hint that the conditions would restrict Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"(Israel) wants us to agree that come January we would not ask for any conditions on this aid respecting their settlement practices. That's just something we are not going to agree to," he said.

It's a question frankly of not being able to justify in our own minds, or in the minds of other parties in the peace process, an unconditional \$10 billion infusion that doesn't have any restrictions," he added.

But Mr. Baker, at a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa, later, refused to say if he thought the loan guarantees should be tied to settlement activity.

It is widely seen that loan guarantees now would encourage Israel to move more Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories and

make a land-for-peace deal more difficult to achieve.

The U.S. official said he understood the Arab position.

Mr. Baker was confident that if the U.S. did not try to postpone debate in Congress on the guarantees "the Arabs would not show up (at the peace conference) and who could blame them?" he said.

U.S. President George Bush sparred the row with Israel and the powerful pro-Israel lobby in the United States last week when he threatened to veto any attempt by Congress to consider the Israeli request for guarantees within four months.

The U.S. official said Washington would not promise even that the guarantees would be approved in January or that they would cover a specific amount of Israeli borrowing.

The six points in the U.S. proposal are:

— The U.S. administration will not seek a further delay on the loans in January.

— The administration will work with Congress to draft the legislation on the loan guarantees.

— The United States will try to

U.S. Congress clears way for unfreezing military aid to Jordan

From our correspondent in Washington

THE FOREIGN relations committees of the United States House of Representatives and Senate Monday lifted the restrictions on American military assistance to Jordan which lawmakers had imposed earlier this year as a punishment for the Kingdom's perceived official pro-Iraq stand during the Gulf crisis.

In a 10-hour "conference" session between the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, senior legislators managed to resolve the differences between their respective foreign aid authorization bills for fiscal 1992 and 1993.

The House's version of the bill, which passed the House in June of this year, contained a provision suspending the \$27 million in military assistance to Jordan until the president certifies to congressional committees the following: that Jordan has recognized Israel's right to exist; that Jordan has demonstrated its willingness to enter into direct bilateral negotiations with Israel; and that Jordan is not providing any non-humanitarian assistance in Iraq.

The Senate's version of the bill contained no similar restrictions.

The administration has requested \$25 million in military assistance and \$30 million in economic assistance for fiscal 1992 and 1993. During the House floor debate on the bill, a number of amendments were presented as a clear signal to Amman that members of the House of Representatives were unhappy about what they perceived as an official pro-Iraq stand by the Jordanian government.

These amendments found overwhelming support on the House floor. However, observers believe Amman's "helpful" stand on the peace process has helped improve the country's standing in Congress.

In a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on July 21, His Majesty King Hussein said that Jordan was willing to attend a Middle East peace conference, to take part in a joint delegation and to end the economic boycott in exchange for a freeze in settlement activity in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Members of Congress had openly expressed a desire in seeing Arab states take such a step publicly. When the Senate discussed its version of the foreign aid authorization bill in late July, no amendments were presented to suspend economic or military aid to the Kingdom. Shortly afterwards, Secretary Baker announced that Washington would release U.S. economic aid to Jordan.

This is the first time since 1985 that the House and Senate have agreed on a foreign aid authorization bill. However, the president has threatened to veto the bill because, among other things, it authorizes U.S. funds for the U.N. Fund for Population Activities

Iraq, U.S. head for clash over overflights

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq has set conditions for overflights of U.N. helicopters searching for weapons of mass destruction, and the United States called the condition unacceptable.

Iraq wants the helicopters to avoid flying over parts of Baghdad, apparently fearing an attack on President Saddam Hussein.

The Security Council warned Baghdad last Friday of unspecified consequences if it did not permit U.N. teams to fly over Iraq in their own helicopters. The dispute has already halted work by inspectors searching for ballistic missiles.

In response, Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari said Baghdad would abide by council mandates but gave Security Council President Jean-Bernard Kerekou of France a list of circumstances under which it would allow the flights, diplomats said.

Iraq also seeks to exclude aerial photography and limit the flights to two weeks.

"Iraq's ambassador said the conditions related to high security reasons but most analysts here believe this had to do with the safety of the head of state," said one Western envoy, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Anbari said Iraq authorities also had to be on board the helicopters. U.N. officials said the special commission in charge of destroying Iraq's dangerous weapons had previously agreed to

Palestinian found dead in jail cell

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A 16-year-old Palestinian girl was found dead Monday in her cell at Jerusalem's Russian compound jail, Israeli police said.

The girl, Shifa Makul, from the village of Beit Aul in the occupied West Bank, had been detained last Wednesday for allegedly throwing stones at Israeli cars.

Israeli newspapers said there were no signs of physical violence and that the girl's body had been transferred for autopsy in Tel Aviv.

Kamal Othman Abdullah, 48, had been head of the council in Karara for the past six years, residents said.

Israel closed down Tuesday as Jews observed the day of atonement, their most important holiday, with fasting and prayers seeking God's forgiveness.

The holiday, known in Hebrew as Yom Kippur, is kept by the vast majority of Israel's 4.1 million Jews even though many of them do not observe other religious customs.

Before the start of Yom Kippur at 5:08 p.m. (1908 GMT), shops and restaurants shut down, airports and naval ports closed, all transportation stopped and Israel radio and television went silent. Even secular Jews do not drive on Yom Kippur for fear of being stoned by Jewish zealots.

Turkmen: Kuwait not to expel Palestinians

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees said Tuesday that Kuwait does not plan to expel the Palestinian community.

After Turkmen, commissioner-general of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees, also noted that the emirate has increased its contribution to his agency.

Mr. Turkmen spoke in a telephone interview after talks with Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

The U.N. official also met a Palestinian delegation representing the community in Kuwait.

Mr. Turkmen described his talks with Kuwaiti officials as "constructive."

"The Kuwaiti government realizes that the Palestinians have nowhere to go," he said. "They will not be forced to leave. That has been clearly pointed out."

Mr. Turkmen said he was assured by the Kuwaitis that there will be no limitations on the employment of Palestinians in the private sector.

He said that the emirate has decided to increase its yearly \$1 million contribution to UNRWA, but he refused to give the new figure.

Sharaa: Israel should free all Arab detainees

BONN (AP) — Syria's foreign minister said Tuesday that all Arab prisoners in Israeli jails must be freed as part of any deal that would win the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

The foreign minister, Farouq Al Sharaa, also said Israel's continued building of settlements in the occupied territories "make peace completely impossible."

Mr. Sharaa was in Bonn for talks with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and other German officials.

Mr. Genscher and Mr. Sharaa discussed efforts to win the release of Western hostages in Lebanon and the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Sharaa told reporters that Syria was continuing to strive to win the hostages' freedom, and that their release should entail no conditions.

But he said that Lebanese and Palestinians jailed by Israel are "similar to the hostages" and they too must be released.

"All hostages must be set free for humanitarian reasons, but also all Arabs held in Israeli jails," Mr. Sharaa said.

"We are referring to the Arab

Yugoslav ceasefire announced

IGALO, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslavia's warring leaders agreed Tuesday to an immediate ceasefire, acknowledging their country was just days from "irretrievable civil war."

"We pledge... that everyone within our control and under our political and military influence should cease fighting immediately," European Community (EC) mediator Lord Carrington read from the agreement signed in this southern resort after four hours of meetings.

However, it was not clear whether the agreement would meet any more success than previous efforts to halt the fighting in war-torn Croatia. More than 400 people have been killed there since June 25, when Croatia declared independence from the Yugoslav federation.

An hour after the agreement was announced, air raid sirens wailed again in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. Croatian media reported an air attack on Lueko, a suburb about 10 kilometres southwest of Zagreb (a Yugoslav air force jet was also said to have been shot down).

Only about 40 kilometres away from the meeting, the sleek silhouettes of two Yugoslav navy

Moscow sends envoy to meet PLO leaders

Husseini in London with U.S. letter

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A top Soviet official will meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat this week in a bid to overcome obstacles blocking the planned Middle East peace conference, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"We are trying to see what can be done in order to convene the peace conference in the Middle East. There are still some obstacles and... we hope that our talks with the Palestinians and others will help resolve those obstacles," spokesman Vitaly Churkin told reporters.

He said Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov would meet this week in Tunis with Mr. Arafat and with Mahmoud Abbas, a PLO Executive Committee member.

The talks are "in accordance with the wishes expressed by both the Palestinian side and by (U.S.) Secretary of State (James) Baker in his recent visit to Moscow," Mr. Churkin told a news conference.

Mr. Baker is trying to make progress on the landmark talks, which are jointly sponsored by Moscow and Washington and tentatively set for October.

Mr. Baker visited Moscow last week but the two sides failed to

Tug-of-war between press and deputies reaches climax over public freedoms panel's report

Shbeilat charges papers are lagging behind democratic steps; editors say not everything deputies say or do is worthy of coverage

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A long-running tug-of-war between Islamist deputies and local newspapers over press coverage of parliamentary activities came to a head this week when a prominent member of the Lower House charged that editors had deliberately spiced a report his parliamentary group had prepared and distributed to the press for publication.

Leith Shbeilat, an independent Islamist, and Muslim Brotherhood members have for some time now accused the press of bias in handling their activities and demands. Newspaper editors, however, maintain that their coverage of Parliament has been objective and fair.

This week, the feud reached a climax when Mr. Shbeilat accused the editors of deliberately ignoring



Leith Shbeilat
a report released by the Lower House's Public Freedom Committee, of which he is a member, alleging ill-treatment and torture of security detainees.

During a press conference he held at his office on Saturday, Mr. Shbeilat accused the papers of bias and called on journalists to "fight" for greater press freedoms and

objectivity.

The report in question, which was issued and distributed by the parliamentary committee on the final day of Parliament's extraordinary session on Sept. 2 gave a detailed account of alleged abuses and torture against detainees by security forces based on interviews with a number of men who were recently detained and later released.

The justifications for not publishing the report cited by editors of the major dailies varies, ranging from lack of knowledge about the release of the report to editorial policy and political reasons.

Hashem Khreisat, editor-in-chief of Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily and president of the Jordan Press Association, said he did not receive in time a copy of the report, which was distributed to the press and deputies on the last day of the extraordinary session.

"I did not know of this report until I saw it published in Al Rabat (weekly) and when the minister of interior leaked his statement," Mr.

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You are doubly welcome because, this hospitable country and its people deserve to be dealt with as fairly, justly and honourably as possible.

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Despite our limited resources, we have had to pay in excess of \$100 million in extra shipping and inspection costs in one year. This has burdened the individual citizen both financially and psychologically.

We wish to enlist your valuable assistance in addressing the wrong that have been inflicted upon Jordan and Jordanians, by lifting the embargo, imposed on Aqaba, which has been one of the root causes of both our economic and psychological problems.

We are certain that during your meetings with His Majesty King Hussein and his senior aides you will learn more of the magnitude and reality of the end results of this embargo on Aqaba.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary of State, in anticipation of your kind and positive efforts.

M.H. Nahhas/chairman
The committee of businesses affected by the naval embargo on Aqaba.

Saddam says no place for Western democracy in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein, showing increasing self-confidence as he moves to consolidate his power six months after the Gulf war, says there is no place for Western-style democracy in his country.

In a broad-ranging speech read out in full for several hours, on Iraqi television on Monday evening, he also urged greater efforts to tackle the country's economic ills.

President Saddam's speech was the keynote address to a top-level meeting of the country's ruling Baath Party last Friday that re-elected him as undisputed party leader. The party unanimously adopted President Saddam's address as its guiding political doctrine.

President Saddam said moves towards democracy in Iraq must not copy Western models. He warned that anyone who adopted or admired Western values and attitudes "would not be allowed in any circumstances and conditions to take any post in leadership or direct the political, social and cultural life of the country."

Iraq's Revolution Command Council, headed by President Saddam, issued a decree two weeks ago allowing the creation of opposition parties.

But it reserved for the Baath Party the privilege of political activity within the armed forces and barred ethnic or religious-based parties, effectively banning separate parties for the Kurds or the country's Shiite Muslims.

President Saddam attacked subjects as wide-ranging as the

United States, liberalism and communism, but did not spell out what democratic path the country should follow.

The press has said in recent editorials that Western-style democracy would not work in Iraq with its Arab and Islamic traditions.

In his first speech after the Gulf war, President Saddam pledged to introduce limited democratic changes including a new constitution, multi-party political activity and freedom of the press.

Friday's address made no mention of the promised constitution and multi-party system or the situation in northern Iraq, where Kurdish rebels seeking autonomy control a sector of the country along the Turkish and Iranian borders.

President Saddam said the Baath Party should be at the forefront of all aspects of Iraqi life and criticised the government's "lack of serious action" to cure the country's economic ills.

Last Friday the party sacked Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi, who was appointed at the height of domestic unrest following the Gulf war with a mandate to restore confidence and turn the economy around.

No reason was given for Dr. Hammadi's sacking but Iraqi media later reported he was humiliated in elections for the party leadership at Friday's meeting.

President Saddam was prime minister until Dr. Hammadi's appointment. He named Mohammed Hamza Al Zaidi, a party functionary scarcely known outside Iraq, to succeed Dr. Ham-

madi, a founder of Iraq's Baath Party and one of its leading international figures who had called for greater political and economic liberalisation in Iraq.

Iraq, under a blanket trade embargo since its invasion of Kuwait more than a year ago, is suffering acute shortages of food, medicines and industrial spare parts.

The economy is in free fall with the country's multi-billion dollar overseas assets frozen and oil exports — the only substantial income earner — blocked.

Against a backdrop of rampant inflation and a brazen black market, President Saddam called for more efforts to stamp out racketeering and warned officials against corruption.

"The leadership and party should not accept anyone in the leading rank of government or party who benefits from the profiteers and criminals who are taking advantage of the poor and needy," he said.

He said municipal authorities around the country should take stronger powers unto themselves "in rectifying social disorder and price monitoring."

Iraq is suffering from a sharply rising incidence of crime and President Saddam acknowledged that there had been a breakdown of law and order in parts of the country, saying it had increased since the Gulf war.

The Kurds in the north and the Shiites of the south rose up against the government in the wake of the war, but the rebellions were quickly crushed by heavily-armed government forces.

Maghreb union pledges total support for Palestinians

CASABLANCA (Agencies) — North African leaders have pledged their "total support" for the Palestinians and urged the United Nations to lift its war-time embargo on Iraq.

Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania and Libya promised to follow "with great interest" how a U.S.-engineered Middle East peace conference unfolds, a final summit communiqué said late Monday.

They also reiterated their standing position in favour of an independent Palestinian state ruled by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital.

The five states of the Arab Maghreb union were represented by their heads of state, except for Libya, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi instead sent his second-in-command, Abdul Salam Jaloud.

The union, a sort of common market formed three years ago, demanded that the United Nations lift its embargo against Iraq to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Moroccan and Tunisian officials had hoped that the five

countries would reach a strong, unified stand on the Middle East peace conference U.S. Secretary of State James Baker hopes to convene next month.

The support for the PLO and the mild pledge only to observe the conference indicated that foreign policy differences may remain strong among members ranging from the anti-U.S. Qaddafi to Morocco's pro-American King Hassan II.

The summit decided that one of the union's five institutions would be based in each of the five member states.

The permanent secretariat will be in Morocco but the first secretary general will be a Tunisian, according to the final statement read out at the closing session.

This appeared to be a compromise to placate Tunisia, which had been anxious to host the secretariat since the Arab League moved its headquarters back to Cairo last year.

The union's failure to set up a permanent executive is often cited as one of the reasons it has been slow to carry out its plans, which include a customs union by the year 1995 and a common market by the end of the century. The union's consultative

assembly or embryonic Maghreb parliament will be based in Algeria, its supreme court in Mauritania, the Maghreb Investment Bank in Tunisia, and the Maghreb University and Academy of Science in Libya.

In a closing speech King Hassan said the new decision-making procedure would make the union more flexible.

Instead of talking all major decisions by unanimity, the heads of state could decide by simple majority, except in exceptional circumstances like declaring war, he said.

The king, current chairman of the union, urged his colleagues to "harmonise their ambitions with reality" and speed up the process of integration.

The final statement also condemned continued Jewish immigration to Israel.

It said that to promote economic relations with the European Community (EC), the Maghreb's most important trading partner, a preliminary meeting would be held on Oct. 25 and 26 between representatives of the Maghreb five and four EC member states — France, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Palestinian leader says 5 groups will boycott PNC

ALGIERS (R) — Five Palestinian groups will boycott the Palestine National Council (PNC) next week unless there is a last-minute deal with Yasser Arafat, one of their leaders said in an interview published Monday.

The council is meeting in Algiers next Monday to decide policy on a Middle East conference proposed for next month.

Khaled Al Fahoum, who heads the Damascus-based Palestine National Salvation Front, said Mr. Arafat had set the date for the meeting before reaching a comprehensive agreement with the five factions opposed to the policies of Mr. Arafat's Fateh movement.

"In this state of affairs, there will be many absent from the PNC," he told the Algerian newspaper Horizons.

Mr. Fahoum is asking for more time for consultations between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunis, the Damascus-based dissidents and two Muslim fundamentalist groups on the composition of the council.

PLO sources in Tunis have said the front wants the PNC to invite Abu Nidal, a former PLO official sought by Western police in connection with violent attacks on civilians.

The PLO, which accused Abu

Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council of killing two leading members in Tunis in January, has rejected the demand.

The PLO has also rejected a demand by the fundamentalist group Hamas that the PNC annul the resolutions of all previous PNC meetings. Hamas advocates an Islamic state throughout historic Palestine, not the PLO's two-state solution.

Mr. Fahoum said, "They (Mr. Arafat's supporters) will designate to the PNC who they want, but Saiga, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Fateh Revolutionary Council, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, all these will not be there."

Saiga, a Syrian-backed guerrilla group, and the PFLP-GC of Ahmad Jibril are traditional members of the PLO and have the right to attend the PNC. The other groups are not and would have to negotiate their terms for taking part.

"If the PNC takes place before resolving this divergence of view, there will certainly be a division on the Palestinian scene," Mr. Fahoum said.

Mr. Fahoum, a former PNC speaker, accused Mr. Arafat of refusing to meet leaders of the five movements in Yemen on Sept. 1.

Sudan releases details of foiled coup

KHARTOUM (AP) — Participants in a coup attempt which was foiled last August planned assassinations of senior army officials and a two-pronged attack on Khartoum and an eastern capital, according to military spokesmen.

Major-General Mohammed Abdalla Oweida said in a statement that the investigation into the coup had been completed and that the information they gathered was based on confessions from the coup plotters.

Gen. Oweida said that the coup was plotted by a new group called "Ana Al Sudan" (I Am Sudan). He said it was made up of officers both in active service and retired, as well as members of banned political parties and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The military government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir revealed the coup plot last month and said a number of plotters had been arrested. It gave no details.

Gen. Oweida said that police had been monitoring the plotters for one year. He said the arrested men confessed to planning to occupy key installations in Khartoum using army officers and underground members of the banned political parties which is led by the Communist Party.

At the same time, another group of plotters, mainly SPLA members, were to take control of the eastern capital Kassala which is near the Sudanese-Ethiopian border. The SPLA's activities are mainly in the south and Gen. Oweida said the SPLA forces were to have been parachuted into the town using planes loaned by former Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam who supported the rebels.

Gen. Oweida said that an unidentified country had allowed the use of its diplomatic pouch to allow the plotters inside and outside the country to communicate.

He said another alleged coup plotter, an arrested merchant confessed that he was recruited by a foreign intelligence agency also to facilitate communications.

Soviet envoy arrives in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Soviet envoy Yegheny Primakov arrived in Iran Tuesday bearing a message from President Mikhail Gorbachev to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, Tehran Radio reported.

The radio reported that Mr. Primakov, a special Gorbachev adviser on the fifth stop of a Middle East mission, said upon arrival that there were possibilities for the two neighbouring countries to expand their relations. There was no elaboration.

Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Ali Mohammad Besharati, who met Primakov at the airport, said Mr. Gorbachev had always tried to maintain good relations with Iran and ties were now warmer than ever, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia.

Iran is of increasing importance to Moscow's interests in the Gulf region since the demise of Iraq. The Tehran leadership has expressed concerns about the effects of the Soviet Union's breakup upon its Muslim republics.

Mr. Primakov's visit was expected to include discussions on that, as well as to try to enlist Iranian support for a U.S.-Soviet sponsored Middle East peace conference and a halt to arms deliveries to civil war adversaries in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Mr. Primakov left Kuwait Tuesday after a two-day visit that aimed at fostering Moscow's ties with the oil-rich emirate. He was the first Soviet official to visit Kuwait since its liberation from Iraq's seven-month occupation.

He said the Soviet Union was doing its best to influence Iraq to return hundreds of Kuwaiti detainees and prisoners of war. Mr. Primakov said the Soviet Union was working hard to coordinate a peace conference between the Arabs and Israel.

Black activist seeks driver who hit New York boy

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Rev. Al Sharpton, the New York black activist, spent three hours in Israel Tuesday trying to serve a summons on a Hasidic Jew whose car struck and killed a black child.

He flew out after visiting the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv, where he said he handed in the summons. His visit passed without incident, except for a brief exchange of angry words with orthodox Jews outside Ben-Gurion international airport.

Rev. Sharpton arrived in the morning with attorney Alton Maddox, saying he wanted to trace Yosef Lifsh, the driver whose car fatally hit seven-year-old Gavin Cato on Aug. 19 and sparked three nights of rioting in the Crown Heights neighbourhood of Brooklyn.

A grand jury found no criminal wrongdoing in Cato's death, but Rev. Sharpton said the boy's family was filing a civil damages suit.

Rev. Sharpton went from the airport to the embassy, then back to the airport before noon to fly via Frankfurt.

Rev. Sharpton said Consul Michael Metrinko agreed to accept the papers. He added he would return Thursday to start extradition proceedings if Mr. Lifsh did not answer the summons.

The U.S. embassy confirmed that Mr. Metrinko received Rev. Sharpton, but it declined to give details.

Rev. Sharpton said his trip was meant to prove to the court which is hearing the damages suit that everything possible had been done to serve the summons.

This, he said, "should dispel the idea that we came here on some kind of stunt."

Mr. Lifsh belongs to the Hasidic Lubavitcher community, and his whereabouts are not known. The community has a large vil-

lage near the airport, but Rev. Sharpton would have had little time to go there and look for Mr. Lifsh.

He arrived a few hours before Israel was to virtually shut down for the holy day of Yom Kippur. He would have been unable to drive after sundown or catch a flight out until Wednesday night.

"If we waited here during Yom Kippur, they would say we were anti-Semitic and disrespected the holiday," said Rev. Sharpton.

"The question is, will the driver (Mr. Lifsh) respect the holiday by atoning for his sins. Before he goes to the 'Wailing Wall' he ought to go to the consular general's office to receive the court order," he said.

On his arrival, he said to reporters: "This is the day of atonement. Why not start atoning with this? Israel has a lot to atone for, like relations with South Africa. We're going to ask him (Mr. Lifsh) to do the right thing and come to court."

As Rev. Sharpton hunted for a taxi at the airport, a half-dozen people, some wearing the garb of orthodox Jews, shouted at him. "Go to hell," yelled one woman.

"I already am in hell," replied Rev. Sharpton, and then explained to reporters that by "hell" he didn't mean Israel, but airports in general.

Another man offered to buy him a ticket home. Rev. Sharpton accepted and the man produced a credit card, but no transaction ensued.

"We're not here to desecrate Yom Kippur," Rev. Sharpton said.

Asked how he felt about being in Israel, he said: "It means something to be here seeking justice."

In the rioting, a Jewish student who had no connection to Cato's death was fatally stabbed.

Oliver North finally wins Iran-contra criminal case

WASHINGTON (R) — Oliver North, who ran the secret Iran-contra operations from his White House office during Ronald Reagan's presidency, was finally acquitted in wiping out his criminal convictions for his prominent role in the scandal.

A federal judge brought the long legal battle to an end on Monday.

Iran-contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh suddenly decided to give up the convictions because of legalities surrounding Colonel North's dramatic testimony before Congress in 1987.

Col. North used the congressional hearings to deliver an impassioned defence of the covert scheme to sell U.S. arms to Iran in 1985-86 and divert millions of dollars in profits to the Nicaragua contra rebels.

Because the captivating and nationally televised testimony was given under a grant of immunity, none of it could be used against Col. North in the later criminal prosecution.

Mr. Walsh said he was unable to meet the tough standards set out by a U.S. court of appeals last year of proving, line by line if necessary, that none of the testimony of the 67 trial witnesses had been influenced by what Col. North had said.

"North is going to free on a technicality — an important technicality, but a technicality nonetheless that does not address whether his underlying conduct was illegal," Georgetown University law professor Paul Rothstein said.

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PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Variety programme
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:00 Doc. Hollywood story
22:00 News in English
22:30 Le Roi Mystery

PRAYER TIMES

04:56 Fajr
05:17 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:31 Dhuhr
16:02 'Asr
18:40 Maghrib
20:03 'Isa

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Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

American International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932

Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Gradual drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Ammann 18 / 30

Aqaba 23 / 36

Dead Sea 17 / 24

Jordan Valley 21 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN: Dr. Yusef Samour 615648

Dr. Khalid Ma'add 743500

Dr. Abdul Wahab Awwad 846070

Dr. Bassam Karadshah 796200

First pharmacy 763136

First pharmacy 661912

First pharmacy 778336

First pharmacy 637055

First pharmacy 623672

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Iranian official concludes talks with Jordanian officials

AMMAN (Petra) — The Iranian foreign minister's advisor and head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department Mohammad Kazem Tuesday wound up a three-day official visit to Jordan during which he delivered a message from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani dealing with bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region.

The Iranian official also held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Taher Masri, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat and other senior Jordanian officials.

He also delivered a message to Dr. Arabiyat from his Iranian counterpart, Sheikh Mahdi Karroubi, who invited him to a conference on the Palestine question to be held in Tehran Oct. 19.

In a statement Monday to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, following his meeting with Prince Hassan, Mr. Kazem said that his meetings with Jordanian officials were held in a brotherly atmosphere and that he had the chance to exchange with senior Jordanian officials views on various issues of concern to both Iran and Jordan.

He said that the Palestine problem was of special importance to his country and described it as the central issue of the whole Islamic nation.

Mr. Kazem also said that his talks with Jordanian officials dealt with the consequences of the Gulf crisis on the region.

Group calls for lifting of embargo against Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan branch of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) Tuesday issued an appeal to the U.N. secretary general to work towards cancelling all U.N. Security Council resolutions which prevent the Iraqi people from obtaining food and medicine.

"The United Nations is committed to enhance human rights through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to uphold these rights under all circumstances to ensure health and prosperity to mankind," said the appeal.

"As long as the current economic embargo on Iraq is depriving the civilian population of medicines and food, causing the death of thousands of children and sick persons, the embargo should be terminated," said the statement.

It added that the Iraqi people in general and the Iraqi children in particular are suffering because of the embargo, which is a crime against humanity.

The statement said that in preventing Iraq from obtaining its needs of food and medicine, the United Nations has violated its own charter and international laws.

The appeal called on all world organisations to work towards rescinding all resolutions that prevent medicine and food from reaching the Iraqi people and urged world organisations to support moves aimed at lifting the embargo.

Parents, staff protest decision to transfer control of deaf centre

By Serene Hakasa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A ministerial decision to transfer the administration of a centre for the deaf from the Ministry of Health under the direct control of a government-run hospital on Sunday has caused an uproar among the centre's beneficiaries and staff and prompted a protest action for two consecutive days.

The decision, which appeared to have caught the staff by surprise, stipulates that the centre will be under the direct control of the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Unit of Al Bashir Hospital and the relative independence which the centre had enjoyed would be curtailed through administrative procedures, making the head of the centre answerable to the chief of the ENT department.

In light of the minister's decision, Dr. Sabail Al Kayed, director-general of Al Bashir Hospital, Sunday also named Dr. Hashem Raja Masoud as director of the centre, replacing Mansur Hamzeh, who informed the Jordan Times that he has not been told about the



NEW EMERGENCY CENTRE: — Health Minister Mamdouh al Abbadi Tuesday opened the new premises of the first aid and emergency centre at Bashir Hospital. The new centre is equipped with the latest and most modern equipment in the Middle East. It includes four emergency operations theatres and an emergency hospital capable of accommodating 112 beds. In a press statement after the opening ceremony, Dr.

Abbadi said the centre will serve as a nucleus for a first aid and emergency hospital, which will provide medical services to all citizens from various parts of Jordan. Attending the opening ceremony were Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Khabarti and Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Al Sroum (Petra photo)

Jordanian-Yemeni committee to discuss expansion of trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — The higher joint Jordanian-Yemeni Committee is due to open its annual meeting in Amman Sunday under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Taher Masri of Jordan and Haidar Abu Baker Al Attas of Yemen, according to an official announcement here Tuesday.

The joint committee will discuss bilateral cooperation in agriculture, energy, transport, communications, culture, industry, trade and education, according to the announcement.

It said a Yemeni delegation led by the country's Minister of Supply and Trade, Fadel Muhsein Abdullah, is due here Wednesday to take part in a joint committee meeting that would prepare for the higher committee parley on Sunday.

The higher committee last held its meeting in Sanaa when questions related to joint cooperation



Taher Masri

in the aforementioned fields were discussed.

Upon the conclusion of the Sanaa meetings, it was announced that the two sides concluded an agreement on economic and trade exchanges, on holding a Jordanian industrial exhibition in Sanaa and on increasing the number of Jordanian teachers employed in Yemeni schools to reach 1,000 during 1991.

Also, according to the agreement Jordanian doctors and engineers would be sent to Yemen to work in various establishments.

Jordan and Yemen have been cooperating in many fields under the guidance of the higher joint committee including energy, electricity, education and industrial and scientific research.

Last May, a Yemeni delegation concluded talks with Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources officials on means of Yemen benefiting from Jordan's expertise in the exploitation of natural gas at al Rishah fields for the purpose of generating electric power.

Chile calls for implementation of U.N. resolutions, reaffirms friendly relations with Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Chilean embassy, on the eve of the South American country's independence day, Tuesday issued a press release reaffirming the strong friendly relations between Jordan and Chile and restating its support for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"In connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question, Chile's stand has been defined in accordance with its traditional pacifist vocation and in the context of all norms of international law as well as the principles that constitute the base

of the United Nations Charter," said the press release from the embassy.

In this regard, it said, "Chile supports the peaceful and juridical resolution of international conflicts and supports the international peace conference for the Middle East to be held in the coming month."

The statement added that Chile does not accept territorial acquisition by means of force and supports the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425, which call for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied since 1967 and 1982. The press release said that

"Chile supports the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and an independent and sovereign state, the territorial integrity of all the states in the Middle East region including Israel and its right to have secure and internationally recognised borders."

The press release voiced "Chile's total condemnation of Israel's settlement construction policy in the occupied Arab lands and stressed that Chile adheres to all the elements of the Geneva Conventions regarding the respect and protection of civilians in occupied land and in war time."

Organisations offer to help returnees

AMMAN (Petra) — Returnees Welfare Committee sources said Tuesday charitable and voluntary societies operating in Jordan have expressed their readiness to extend in-kind and cash assistance to the Jordanian expatriates returning home from Kuwait.

The sources said the assistance will be presented to the returnees through the government-appointed Returnees Welfare Committee and the director of the Social Development Department in the Kingdom's various governorates.

The societies, which voiced readiness to help the expatriates, include the Near East Council of Churches, CARE Organisation

for Relief Works and the Near East Establishment, according to the sources.

Salameh Hammad, chairman of the committee, said about 300,000 people have returned to Jordan, straining the country's essential services. He said the committee is facing problems dealing with this huge task.

The Ministry of Planning said Sunday that the influx of expatriates has increased the Kingdom's population by about 10 per cent. Planning Minister Ziad Fariz said that the country would need at least \$4.5 billion within the next five years to absorb and settle the returnees.

British official completes visit, says he better understands area's problems

By Saqer Abu Shattal
Petra

AMMAN — Visiting British deputy under-secretary of state for Middle East and African Affairs Patrick Fairweather concluded talks with Jordanian officials Tuesday saying he is now better informed about the situation in the region.

"I have a much clearer picture than before. I have arrived obviously not only at the position of the Jordanian government but also of individual Jordanians because one of the good things about a visit like mine is that it provides opportunities to meet a range of Jordanians and hear their views," Mr. Fairweather said. "Now I go away with a much clearer picture on the way

problems of the region are seen here in Jordan and I am grateful for that as it is a very useful thing," said the British official in an exclusive interview with Petra following his meetings with Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour and the chairman of parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

At the meeting with Dr. Ensour, Mr. Fairweather was briefed on the developments in the region and current efforts for a settlement to the Palestine question.

The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament, Ahmad Innab, discussed with Mr. Fairweather questions related to the projected peace conference in October and

stressed Jordan's demands for a halt to settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

"This is my first visit. I have come here of course in order to hear from Jordanian ministers and officials how Jordan sees the political situation in the region, possibilities of successful developments towards peace settlement and a solution to the Palestine problem, Mr. Fairweather said.

"My visit was well timed since U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is in the region for the seventh time at the moment," he said. "I think that the United Kingdom, as a member of the European Community, sees itself as having an important role in sup-

porting Mr. Baker's peace initiative."

Israel and the Palestinians should take the opportunity which is being offered by the present initiative as soon as possible, he added.

On his planned trip to the occupied territories, he said: "I am going in order to see the situation for myself in the occupied territories. I should go to Gaza for example, to Bethlehem and to meet a large number of Palestinians and obviously I will be talking first about the peace process."

Mr. Fairweather is due to visit the Nabatean city of Petra Wednesday before heading for the occupied territories Thursday.



Abdul Karim Al Dughni

Ministry to invalidate results of association's elections

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughni Tuesday said his ministry would not recognise the elections of the Jordanian Petrochemical Association scheduled for Wednesday.

Mr. Dughni cited the association's violation of an agreement concluded with workers in the pharmaceutical industries two days ago. Under the agreement, the association agreed to postpone the elections for a month to allow for new subscribers and for collecting contribution from members. Mr. Dughni said that the association's decision to hold the elections Wednesday is a clear violation of the labour law.

Defending his ministry against accusations levelled against it by the association, Mr. Dughni said the accusation that the ministry was interfering in their affairs were invalid because the ministry's responsibility is restricted to the more supervision of such associations without any interference. He stressed that the ministry has the right to monitor the associations' observance of the law.

Seminar to discuss possible solutions to water shortage

AMMAN (J.T.) — Utilising modern technology to help meet the Kingdom's needs of water for drinking, industrial and agricultural purposes will be discussed at a seminar which will open here Wednesday at the Amman Plaza Hotel with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher presiding.

The seminar, organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), will focus attention on the desalination of Red Sea water in Aqaba using renewable energy to help obtain new water resources for Jordan's needs. The seminar is organised in cooperation with the Italian Desert Consultants Ltd. and Termo Meccanica and Cosen, according to the RSS statement.

It said that the Desert Consultants and their Italian partners will submit a proposal for the desalination of Red Sea water to meet the growing requirements of



Thabet Al Taher

the Aqaba region.

There is a great deal of concern in Jordan over the future of water availability and it is widely accepted that the problem cannot be solved without cooperation among the region's countries.

Water authority Director Mutazz Al Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times last week that Jordan has been living on the so-called red line for the past three years and the situation was not bright for the future.

Mr. Bilbeisi said that desalination of Red Sea water was one of the options for new resources but that the project would be very expensive. Other alternatives include drawing water from the Dead Sea in the south, which is also very costly.

In August last year, the Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf announced that the present water shortages can be overcome through developing new water resources, including desalination and water importation.

He said that the prospect for Jordan resorting to such projects will increase as the year 2000 draws nearer.



OLYMPIC QUEST BEGINS — The Jordan national soccer team was flown to Bahrain to participate in the preliminaries of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. Other countries participating in the preliminaries, which will be held between Sept. 17-27, include Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Sri Lanka. The Jordanian team is sponsored by Royal Jordanian Airlines.

Officials call for training of Jordanians to fill future market needs

AMMAN (Petra) — A two day seminar called to review Jordan's needs of workers in the industrial sector and services sectors between 1991 and 1993 issued a set of recommendations here Tuesday, stressing the importance of training as a major element contributing to the promotion of industrial production.

A statement issued at the end of the final meeting urged concerned authorities and public sector institutions to create what it called "training units within their own institutions and to allocate sufficient funds and budgets for such activities."

The statement also voiced the seminar's stress on the need to intensify information campaigns designed to encourage Jordanian

women to delve into non-traditional fields of work.

It said special legislations should be introduced to open the way for women to do any jobs. Women sometimes decline to take certain jobs due to the lack of proper facilities to encourage them to enter such endeavours, the statement said.

Training is an investment which is required in promote industry, it added.

Most of the institutions covered in the survey conducted by the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) have expressed a willingness to start training courses to the local labour market, the statement noted.

The statement urged the VTC to conduct a study on the pro-

spect of setting up a special team to deal with the question of maintenance and other services related to industrial projects before during and after the establishment of any industry.

The seminar called on the VTC to develop its training system to allow for on-the-job-training courses, a process that would involve various labour unions.

According to VTC Director General Ahmad Atwan, the survey, conducted every five years, aims at defining the labour market's needs of workers and expansion in industrial fields. The survey, which covered 1,510 firms, gave details about the number of non-Jordanian workers employed in various companies and firms.

Jordanian ambassador takes up post as representative to ALECSO

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia, Haidar Mahmoud, Tuesday presented his credentials as permanent representative to the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) to ALECSO's director general, Nusari Al Rawi.

Mr. Mahmoud said that Jordan was one of the first countries which believed in the importance of culture and its active role in the life of nation. Jordan's keen interest in culture and support for it was embodied since the time of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who established the first Arab cultural forum in his court, Mr. Mahmoud said.

Mr. Mahmoud added that Jordan's belief in unity is still strong, despite all obstacles and difficulties facing the country. He noted that despite the fact that most roads were blocked in the face of our Arab nation, the road of culture was not and will not be blocked as long as we share the one language of the Koran — the Arabic language.

Dr. Rawi praised Jordan's role in establishing ALECSO and its continuous support for it. He thanked King Hussein and the government of Jordan for their contribution to the education field and lauded Jordan's achievements in the areas of science and culture.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of naive painting from Germany at Abdul Hameed Shouman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Basol at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings and ceramics by Iraqi artists Nadhim Munsh, Haim Mahdi and Haidar Al Maarouf at Hotel Jordan International.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Salem Kanaan at the Royal Cultural Centre's Exhibition Hall.
- ★ Art exhibition by Huda Khasrouf Mndhir at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

By Randolph Ryan
Boston Globe

THE ISRAELI government and the Israeli lobby in the U.S. have apparently decided to plunge Americans into a Middle East policy debate that the Bush administration and most members of Congress would have preferred to avoid.

The religious Action Centre of Reform Judaism has reportedly asked rabbis to use this week's high holy days to urge pressure on Congress and the White House in support of a demand for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to subsidize a massive housing programme.

The housing programme is effectively targeted on the disputed territories — the West Bank and Gaza — which have been under Israeli military occupation since the 1967 war.

The possession of these territories, including East Jerusalem, is the bone of contention between Palestinians and Jews, Arabs and Israelis. The fate of the territories was, in theory, to be decided at a forthcoming U.S.-backed peace conference. The call for loan guarantees is a preemptive strike.

Although President Bush has asked leaders in Congress to defer consideration of the Israeli request, their answer is not yet clear.

Instead of becoming sidetracked in a myriad of who-shot-Johns, Americans have to keep track of the basics. The Israeli government is trying to moot the peace process by swallowing and digesting the desirable parts of the disputed territories. That land grab is already far advanced. But it has been thrown into overdrive since the Gulf war because of the threat of a peace settlement that might stop it.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government issues petulant threats about what it will do if it does not get its way. The behaviour of Jerusalem resembles the acting out of a spoiled child.

The demand for an immediate \$10 billion is an insulting power play as well as the latest in a series of torpedoes aimed at sinking the peace conference by causing the Palestinians to drop out. But the Bush administration is in a difficult situation because, until now, it has been permissive of previous Israeli acting out (for example, accepting the ridiculous Israeli stipulation that Israel will have a veto over the Palestinian negotiators).

American politics has long been overwhelmingly pro-Israeli for a combination of strategic reasons and cultural and blood ties. Although little by little the strategic arguments for backing Israel have become less compelling, U.S. opinion has not caught up to the manner in which the situation has changed.

Israel desperately needs financial support for many reasons — above all, to settle the expected influx of Soviet Jews. But it merits that support only if its policies are in basic agreement with U.S. objectives.

This time Israel wants to take U.S. support and use it to defeat U.S. policy by swallowing the West Bank. The Palestinians are weak and they know it. In terms of power, they can in the short term be brushed aside and ignored.

But if the U.S. is sincere about establishing a just Middle East peace, one remotely worthy of being part of a new world order, there must be a fair negotiations. In the meantime, settlements must stop.

The powerful grass-roots support for Israel may still exist, but increasingly it has its basis in ignorance of the situation. The periodic headlines generated by the intifada do not begin to do justice to the evolving ugliness of Israeli policy in the West Bank and Gaza, or to the preposterous scottlaw nature of the Shamir government's negotiating strategy.

In the battle for American public opinion in the weeks ahead, two points are essential: The unfairness of Israeli policy and the existence of American leverage.

Many Americans, including many Jews, are dismayed at the path Israel has taken. The assumption that all American Jews think alike and therefore will automatically close ranks about the unjust policies of the Israeli government is basically an anti-Semitic assumption. It should be buried.

Randolph Ryan is a member of the Globe staff.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WE DO NOT believe that world Zionism, with its open defiance and insults levelled at the U.S. administration, can stop President Bush and his secretary of state from pursuing their efforts to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. One reason for that is that the Jewish votes in the U.S. presidential elections were not behind the arrival of president Bush at the White House; another is that the Israelis cannot do without the huge military and financial aid to Israel enabling it to consolidate its hold on Arab land, the paper said. It said that President Bush has showed his keenness on pursuing his peace efforts and directed warnings to the Israelis who in return accused him of being a liar. It should be noted that the warnings to Israel did not come from a president who has tasted defeat nor from a man begging support from the Jews or facing internal, but rather from a statesman wishing to impose a new world order that would guarantee the international legitimacy, the paper pointed out. It said that if Washington fails to implement this legitimacy, which can ensure the national rights of the Palestinian people, the United States and President Bush himself will be the main losers. This, the paper said, would make Mr. Bush look as if he had launched the aggression on Iraq not as he had claimed to implement the international legitimacy, but to achieve personal gains and only ensure the interests of his own country.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily cast doubts on American peace moves and said that the U.S. president is not a personality that can be trusted in the Arab World. We can not find one single reason for believing the American president about his so-called love for peace and his adherence to the international legitimacy, said Badar Abdel Haq. The columnist said that President Bush had allowed himself to adopt two kinds of international legitimacy: one for the Arab, on whom he had unleashed his forces, attacking Iraq for occupying Kuwait, and the other related to Israel's occupation of Arab land for a quarter of a century allowing the Jewish state to disregard U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The writer said that President Bush did not only allow Israel to set up settlements on confiscated Arab lands, but had also financed this illegal action and is helping the Jewish state fulfill its dream of creating a greater Israel. The U.S. president has allowed and continues to allow the Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel and to settle on occupied land at a time when he claims that Washington can do nothing to put an end to Israel's atrocities and occupation of Arab territory, the writer added.

Economic Forum

Laws are made to break

By Dr. Abdalla Mafti

The devaluation of the Jordanian dinar was the most disastrous economic policy measure in the history of Jordan and most probably will remain so. It is not that this measure was taken in bad faith or that currency devaluation is erroneous in nature but there has to be the right environment for it to work as planned and desired. Such an environment is usually available in advanced countries but not in developing ones. Consequently, experimenting with this economic "device" in developing countries is more like dealing with a time bomb by an amateur. Most commonly, the bomb explodes with devastating effects.

Correspondingly, the stabilisation of the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar was one of the most remarkable achievements of Jordan. It derives its significance particularly from the fact that it was accomplished without expending much foreign exchange, not even the very meagre foreign exchange reserves which were still available to the Central Bank of Jordan when the present Governor M. S. Nabulsi took over in early 1989. The trick was very simple but powerful. The devaluation undermined the confidence of the dealers and savers in the dinar and precipitated a massive move of funds out of it. One way or another, Dr. Nabulsi managed to restore that confidence through convincing the public that the monetary policy is serious about maintaining the stability of the dinar, admittedly after he had banked very well

on the confidence of people in him personally.

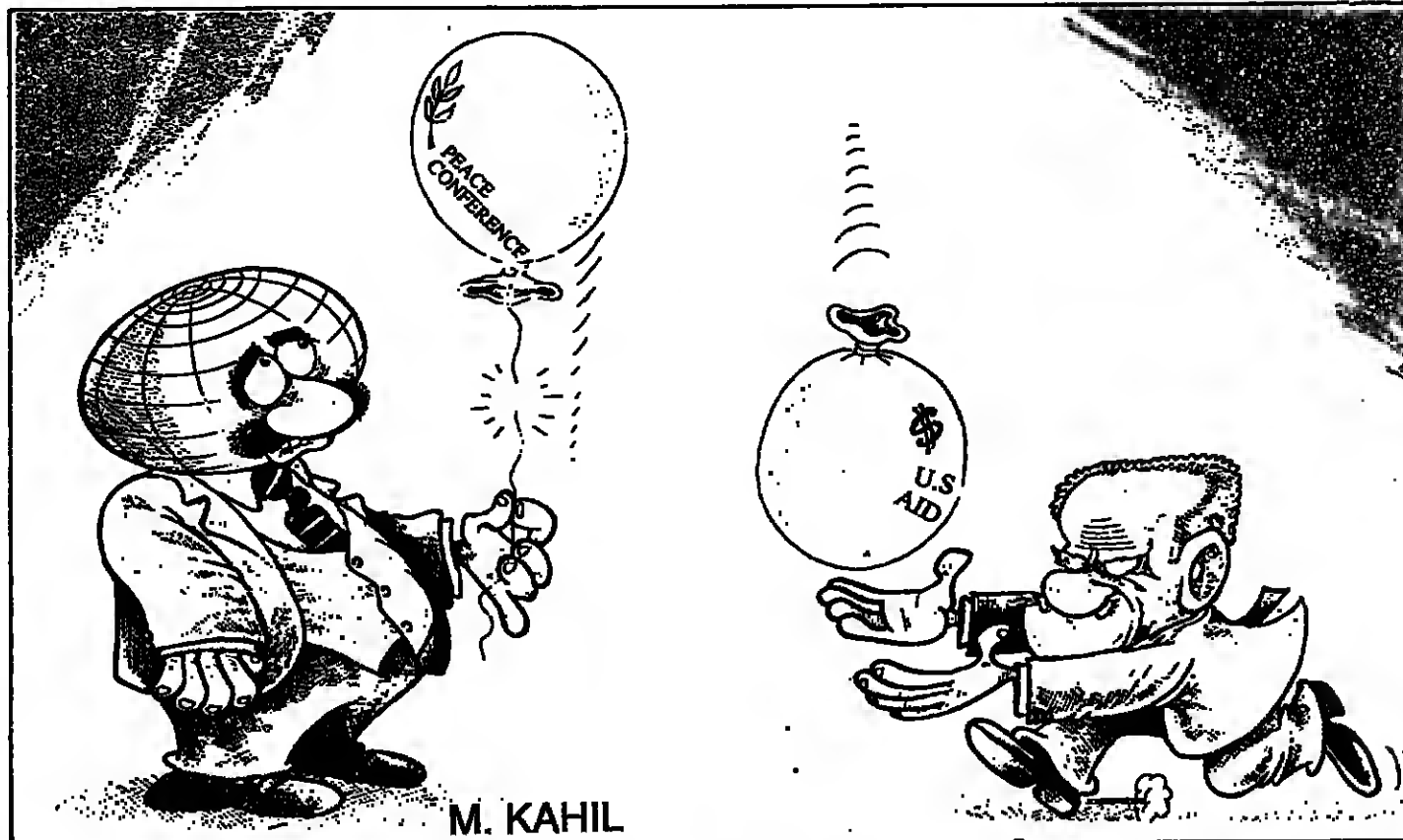
Every now and then the question is raised regarding how long the dinar will maintain its stability. Conservative views, based on the factual levels of Jordan's foreign exchange reserves, suggest that the dinar will be secure for around 18 months. Other views, based additionally on the potential inflows of foreign currencies, raise the figure to 24-30 months. Our viewpoint is that these predictions are accurate but still not relevant. The dinar will be stable as long as the pre-mentioned confidence is maintained. Now, confidence in what? The answer is in the totality of our economic policy with its main branches: monetary, fiscal and commercial policies.

In the present state of affairs, what Jordan crucially needs is the confidence of savers and investors in the seriousness and commitment of our economic policy to the cause of economic progress. In practical terms, this commitment must unrelentingly be translated into a noticeable improvement in the investment climate.

As our economic policy managers are working now on what is presumably a refined investment strategy, let us recall one or two basic points. To be effective, an investment strategy must encourage not only foreign investment but also domestic one. It also must not cater for a specific category or categories of projects

or activities. Invariably, all investments matter; economic progress is a function of the performance of each and every unit throughout the national economy. In advanced economies, each and every sector or sub-sector is advanced; otherwise it will impede the movement of the whole economy and constrain growth.

Taxes are another crucial factor in the formula of encouragement of investment policy not only in the straightforward sense of depressing the return on capital but also of raising the investment-worthiness of the country. When the income tax rate, in Jordan for example, reaches as high as 50 per cent exceeds that to 55 per cent in certain instances, we will have a situation where the state actually owns all enterprises on equal footing with their real owners. In this case, it is hardly justifiable to talk about a free economy based on private ownership. Investors will notice that and downgrade Jordan accordingly, no matter what we say in the way of intentions, press releases and public announcements and even irrespective of what we write in our legislations. The recent attempt of the government in the Senate to cancel tax exemptions given to the Housing Bank, and thereby to Arab investors who own more than 50 per cent of the bank, serves a very clear notice to all investors that we might wipe whatever we write in our laws.



Arab hopes ride on U.S. determination over Israeli loan

By James Anderson
Reuters

DAMASCUS — Arab hopes for a Middle East peace settlement rest largely on one question: Will the United States muster the political will to use the influence over Israel its massive aid could buy?

The answer, in Arab eyes, has for decades been "not yet" and possibly "never".

President George Bush's struggle with Israel and its supporters in the U.S. Congress over \$10 billion in loan guarantees for the Jewish state is now a touchstone for all sides.

Commenting on the loan guarantees row, Syria's ruling party said in its newspaper, Al Baath, on Monday that "this increasing dispute will soon spread out to affect peace efforts. If the interests of the American people win the day over the Zionist lobby's blackmail, a big push for the peace process will be achieved, isolating Israel and stressing its continued enmity to

justice." Momentum towards an Arab-Israeli peace conference which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker generated in six post-Gulf war trips to the region stems largely from the notion that things may after all change.

Mr. Bush who says Washington had so far this year provided Israel with four billion dollars in aid, threatened on Thursday to veto the loan guarantees if Congress passed them before a peace conference convenes in October.

Israel needs the guarantees to raise cash to help absorb hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews but Mr. Bush wants the discussion delayed for four months because it might undermine his drive to bring Arabs to the conference table.

Up till Mr. Bush's intervention on Thursday, most of the issues in Mr. Baker's peace mission had gone Israel's way.

Israel has not committed itself to trading land for peace, the underlying theme of the Bush

administration's policy. Nor has it checked its settlement of Jews in Arab territories captured in 1967.

Its assertion of a right of veto over the choice of Palestinian representatives stands. Washington has not endorsed it but U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has clearly been doing his best to find a formula that would satisfy the Israelis.

Nor has Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir budged in his refusal to include any Palestinian from Jerusalem — a stand symbolising his insistence that he will never discuss the holy city's future with the Arabs.

On the other hand, Israel has accepted the Soviet Union as a co-sponsor of the conference, a concession of doubtful importance because of political turmoil in Moscow and the collapse of its position as a superpower able to support Arab aspirations.

It has also agreed to have the United Nations and the European Community as observers at the proposed peace conference,

but only as a brief first step before one-on-one negotiations with individual Arab states.

One-on-one meetings — with no outsiders who might support Arab views — are the forum that Israel has long wanted. Washington has won agreement from the Arab states that the larger meeting would reconvene only with the approval of all parties, meaning Israel would hold a veto.

Could a conference convened on such terms produce a land-for-peace settlement ending more than four decades of Arab-Israeli conflict?

If the Arabs think it can it is only because Mr. Baker has led them to hope for U.S. pressure to bring concessions from Israel.

Those hopes were born from a shakeup of regional alliances resulting from the end of the cold war and Arab — most notably Syrian — support for the U.S.-led alliance in the Gulf war.

Mr. Bush's veto threat will be a vital test.

Central Asia eyed as new regional power bloc

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

TEHRAN — Central Asia, ancient stamping ground of Genghis Khan and Tamerlane's conquering hordes, is taking on new significance because of the steady disintegration of the Soviet Union.

The prospect is opening up of closer cooperation between a belt of non-Arab Muslim countries stretching from Turkey through Iran to Pakistan, Afghanistan and Soviet central Asian republics like Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Any idea of the steps and mountains developing into a new regional power bloc is at present just a gleam in the eye of strategists.

But the idea of at least closer economic links in the region was raised during a visit to Tehran last week by Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the first by a Pakistani head of state since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

A grouping already exists — the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), linking Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.

It has achieved little so far. "It reminds me a bit of the Euro-Arab dialogue," said one Western diplomat. "It's a great idea,

but let's not get too specific." But ECO will hold its first summit on November 25. Trade and joint ventures will be high on the agenda, officials say.

Asked about the possibility of a larger grouping emerging, stretching north into Soviet Central Asia, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan told reporters: "I think this is something we have always felt was necessary, for the Islamic countries to cooperate more closely. With developments in Central Asia ... the basic foundation of cooperation is there in ECO. We want to strengthen it."

There are some big question marks — the Soviet Central Asian republics, while seeking greater independence, have yet to cut themselves loose from Moscow.

Officials quoted Mr. Ishaq Khan as telling Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani it was now certain the republics would seek stronger ties with their southern neighbours, but one Pakistani analyst said: "The message we are getting from them is to go slow on recognition. They say they will still retain close economic links with Russia."

Afghanistan, too, is an un-

known quantity, despite progress towards ending 13 years of civil war there with a United Nations push for a settlement and a U.S.-Soviet agreement last Friday to stop arms supplies to the government and guerrillas by January.

Pakistan and Iran, giving sanctuary to millions of Afghan refugees will have nothing to do with Kabul until the war ends and the present Soviet-backed government is replaced by one they find acceptable. Afghan President Najibullah offered the rebels a ceasefire on Sunday.

Pakistan, a key supporter of the guerrillas gave guarded support to the arms cut-off.

Officials quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling Mr. Ishaq Khan that, given the uncertainties, the two countries should "safeguard their own interests before reaching into relationships with central Asia."

The main focus of last week's talks was therefore on improving the poor road and rail links. Plans were discussed for Pakistan to build railway tracks in Iran that would ultimately give Islamabad a rail link to Europe.

All the countries of the region are weak economically. Iran is a major oil producer but has been ravaged by war as has Afghanistan.

Western diplomats were also sceptical that a regional grouping could go far politically — "it's a useful forum for communication, but none of the countries wants the others to dominate," one said.

"The last thing Pakistan wants is for the influence of Ayatollah Khomeini (the late Iranian revolutionary leader) to spread in Pakistan."

Shiite Muslims are the dominant sect in Iran but form only a minority in Pakistan.

Pakistani analysts said a strengthened Central Asian bloc could form a counterweight to the Arabs in the Islamic World. If it ever developed, it could also prove worrying to India, which is mainly Hindu but has a large Muslim minority and is embroiled in a dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir.

Some of the countries involved have other ties to consider. Iran is anxious to join Arab states in future security arrangements in the Gulf, following the war over Kuwait.

Turkey is a staunch member of NATO and sees its main economic interest in joining the European Community.

Sweden's Social Democrats bow out after defeat, leaving vacuum

By Tony Anstis
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's Social Democrats, soundly defeated in a general election after almost 60 years of political domination, resigned from government on Monday leaving behind a power vacuum.

Voters delivered a stinging rebuff to the Social Democrats and their Leftist Party allies in the Sunday poll, without handing a clear mandate to any of the five non-socialist parties they elected to parliament.

"It will be chaos. The Swedish people and wage-earners will have to pay for this," Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said after announcing his government's resignation.

The social democrats and Leftists captured 154 of the 349 seats in the Riksdag Parliament, against a combined 170 for a proposed coalition of Conservatives, Centre, Christian Democrats and Liberals.

New Democracy, a new right-wing party, held the remaining 25 seats.

Several newspapers and commentators said the result had sounded the death knell of a unique social system pioneered by the Social Democrats, known as the Swedish model.

Funded by the highest tax burden in the Western world, it provides citizens with a cradle to grave welfare system — including free health care, more than a year of fully paid parental leave and a generous public pension plan.

"The Swedes have seen that the third way between communism and capitalism leads only to an economic morass and a lack of freedom," Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, a Liberal, said on Danish Radio.

Norway's prime minister, Labour Party leader Gro Harlem Brundtland, deplored the election outcome and said Sweden would now become as difficult to govern as her country.

"The Swedish bourgeois parties appear to have a clear majority. But they are only united in opposition — we will see whether they can work together in government," she said.

The conservative Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet said it was the end of an era. "Since 1932, the Social Democrats have dominated Swedish politics. As a result of yesterday's election result, this era has ended," it said, in a leader.

In France, the left-wing paper Liberation compared the Swedish model favourably with what it described as the economic liberalism, tight monetary policies and high unemployment of Sweden's European neighbours.

Pre-election opinion polls had predicted a collapse in support for the Social Democrats and Leftists, buffeted by the winds of change in Eastern Europe and a political climate which favoured more market economy and less central control.

"But the soaring popularity of the Conservatives, Christian Democrats and right-wing New Democracy surprised many commentators."

"It is the parties on the extreme right which gained. We could be heading for a period of confrontation instead of convergence in politics," Mr. Carlsson said.

Kent Asp, a media researcher at Gothenburg University, said voters had apparently punished the small liberal and centre parties for cooperating with the Social Democrats on some economic issues.

Centre Party leader Olof Johansson, one of the election's big losers, said: "We are witnessing an unprecedented polarisation of politics in Sweden. There will be substantial problems in governing the country now."

Lars Werner, leader of the Leftist Party, cited the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe in the last two years as one reason for Sweden's shift to the right. "What is happening in the outside world had affected us too," he said.

The new era of Swedish politics began early on Monday.

New Democracy leader Count Ian Wachtmeister, with a reputation as a prankster, hammered on the doors of parliament and shouted through the letter-box to its speaker: "Thage Peterson. It's Ian. Let me in."

LETTERS

You said it all!

To the Editor:

Nidal Ibrahim (Letters, Jordan Times, Sept. 15, 1991) is absolutely right about Jordan Television's censorship. I agree with every single word he wrote in his letter. I am sure I am not the only one.

He says it all, nothing more to add. I am glad some of us have the courage to describe the state of affairs at Jordan Television. Probably, something will be done about it.

Elena El Sabbagh,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

U.S. offers Israel compromise

(Continued from page 1)

Asked why he did not tackle the settlement issue head on, the president replied that he had said U.S. policy on the matter and "it isn't going to change."

Washington regards Israel's settlement of occupied Arab territory as an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Bush said he had a telephone conversation with Mr. Baker after Mr. Baker's first round of talks with Israeli leaders Monday and that the talks were "very good."

Mr. Kohl, who was at the White House to discuss developments in the Soviet Union, told reporters that Germany and other European countries "completely and unequivocally support a peace conference."

In an apparent reference to an Israeli cabinet official's description Sunday of Mr. Bush as an "anti-Semite," Mr. Kohl added: "I know of no American president who has done as much for the state of Israel as President George Bush."

The president and the chancellor spoke out after leaders in the House of Representatives called for a resolution of the dispute between Mr. Bush and Israel.

Democratic leader Richard Gephardt also indirectly rebuked the Israeli official who lambasted Mr. Bush.

In a speech, Mr. Gephardt said that he could not sit silently by while "divisive comments" were made about the president and that the special relationship between the United States and Israel could be strained by words that hurt.

Mr. Gephardt said the Middle East peace process and the issue of Israel's establishment of settlements in the occupied territories should not be linked to the loan guarantees.

He said all agreed the guarantees were needed and the dispute was about timing.

"I believe that a compromise can be reached and I join with others in the search to find it," Mr. Gephardt said. "This is no time for accusations about the president's motives. This is no place for polarizing comments from anyone," he said.

On Sunday, Israeli Minister-without-Portfolio Rehavam Zeevi

branded Mr. Bush a liar and an anti-Semite who is "conducting a political fight on the backs of millions of Jews" and called for delaying the proposed peace conference.

Mr. Baker and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday they made some progress toward convening the peace conference, but that they still needed to discuss remaining obstacles.

They spoke to reporters after a 90-minute meeting that was also attended by Foreign Minister David Levy and Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

"I think we can say that we have achieved a certain progress in various matters related to the peace process," Mr. Shamir told reporters. "We'll have to have further discussions about many issues."

Mr. Baker also said more talks were needed. "There are still some issues between us that must be resolved," he said.

Both sides said contacts would resume in a few days.

Mr. Baker said there was "a real opportunity to see Arabs, Arab states, sitting down face to face in direct negotiations with Israel, adding that he was convinced Israel wanted to take advantage of the opportunity."

Mr. Baker and Mr. Shamir stressed their talks Monday and Tuesday were held in a friendly, cooperative atmosphere.

But they said they did not resolve their dispute over the loan guarantees.

An opinion poll showed 54 per cent of Israelis think Mr. Bush's stance is not justified, while 42 per cent think it is. Three per cent did not reply.

It said 52 per cent of Israelis were willing to forego up to five per cent of their income to finance the absorption of immigrants if the loan guarantees failed to come through. It said 45 per cent refused to give up income and three per cent did not answer.

The poll of 501 people was conducted by the Dahaf agency for the daily Yedioth Ahronoth. It gave no margin of error.

In Arab East Jerusalem, Mr. Baker's aides met with Palestinian leaders for three hours to discuss remaining obstacles.

In a first round of talks Monday, Tuesday's meeting focused on a letter spelling out U.S. positions on the peace talks.

Mr. Hussein, who left the meeting early to fly to London, said the U.S. letter would be shown to the PLO leadership abroad "so they can make a decision," Mr. Hussein said, he replied: "I don't have to answer that."

In the interview, Mr. Shamir steered clear of any sharp response to Mr. Bush's criticism of Israel. But the paper said that off the record Mr. Shamir said "some words" that "left 'I doubt that George Bush makes him angry'."

Mr. Shamir denied ever promising Mr. Bush Israel would stop building settlements in the occupied territories.

"Maybe he (Mr. Bush) thought so, I don't know," he said.

"Anyway, I never promised anyone anything regarding any step we might take in the land of Israel. It's as clear as the noonday sun that the 'land of Israel' is ours, and I couldn't promise someone anything that contradicts that," he said.

Tug-of-war reaches climax

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Baker presented documents outlining the American positions on peace talks to both sides.

Israeli media reports said Mr. Baker assured the Israelis they would not have to negotiate with Palestinians they found unacceptable. He told the Palestinians that talks would be based on the principle of Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory in exchange for peace, the report said.

Israeli Radio and several newspapers said the U.S. letter to the Israelis says only Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will be members of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

It also says the PLO will not have a role in peace talks.

The Palestinians apparently are now more willing to compromise on the composition of their delegation because of assurance Mr. Baker gave them Monday, Israeli Radio said.

In his letter to the Palestinians, Mr. Baker said negotiations must be based on U.N. Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories in exchange for secure borders, the radio said.

The Israelis argue that they have already complied with 242 by withdrawing from the Sinai peninsula after signing peace with Egypt. But Mr. Baker said in his letter to the Palestinians that 242 means withdrawal on all fronts, the Haaretz daily said.

The U.S. letter to the Palestinians also said the future of Jerusalem must be determined by negotiations, Haaretz said.

The Palestinians also showed greater flexibility following President Bush's insistence on delaying Israel's request for loan guarantees, the radio reported.

In his letter to Israel, Mr. Baker said the U.S. administration would honour a 1975 letter in which then-President Gerald Ford told Israeli leaders that he acknowledged Israeli security concerns in the Golan Heights, media reports said.

Mr. Baker reportedly also told the Israelis that the Soviet Union would restore full diplomatic relations with Israel before the start of the peace conference.

Mr. Shamir, in an interview conducted before he met Mr. Baker Monday, said he was confident the peace conference would convene, because nobody was against it except "the most extreme elements among the Arabs."

Asked whether it would be held in October, as President Bush planned, Mr. Shamir told the daily Haaretz: "It's not so important. If it's to be held in October (and) all the parties are in favour, why postpone it?"

However, Mr. Shamir left the impression he no longer trusted the United States' impartiality. Asked if he saw it as an honest broker, he replied: "I don't have to answer that."

In the interview, Mr. Shamir steered clear of any sharp response to Mr. Bush's criticism of Israel. But the paper said that off the record Mr. Shamir said "some words" that "left 'I doubt that George Bush makes him angry'."

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Tug-of-war reaches climax

(Continued from page 1)

Khreissat told the Jordan Times. Al Rabat is the Muslim Brotherhood mouthpiece, which was the only publication to print the entire text of the report.

Interior Minister Inwadir Shoul had issued a statement on Wednesday categorically denying that torture took place in the detention centres and his statement was published in the three Arabic dailies.

Mr. Shbeilat, however, insisted that torture had taken place against those who were detained. He said that members of the Public Freedom Committee had interviewed the men who had been released, and that a number of those who were still detained were not permitted visits by the deputies, their families or lawyers.

He was referring to 18 members of an underground Islamist group calling itself "(Prophet) Muhammad's Army."

"As far as I'm personally concerned, I had no idea about this report, and it would have been journalistically wrong to publish it after it had already been published elsewhere," Mr. Khreissat explained.

Mr. Shbeilat called on the press to "side with the truth, the interest of the people, the law, the constitution, and the resolutions and recommendations of the Lower House which represents the people," and to struggle towards greater independence by the press in line with democratic freedoms allowed to it.

"It is the duty of journalists to struggle for the sake of liberating their professions from control in order to raise their standard to become a monitoring authority that serves the people," Mr. Shbeilat said.

Musa Keilani, chief editor of Al Dustour daily dismissed Mr. Shbeilat's accusation and said that his newspaper did in fact publish an article on the Freedom Committee's report.

"We published the main parts of the report, but not the points related to (Prophet) Muhammad's Army," Mr. Keilani told the Jordan Times, referring to the group that had allegedly taken part in terrorist acts which included car-bombings that handicapped two people.

"The points in the report related to the group are being discussed in the courts of law and it is a court procedure that should not be reported in the press," Dr. Keilani said, adding that writing about a case in court could influence the final verdict.

Al Dustour's article did not mention the Public Freedom Panel's allegations of torture nor the alleged illegal practices com-

mitted by security forces. The paper, however, did report the committee's call for the director of the General Intelligence Department (GID) to supply the speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament with the report that he sends daily to the prime minister.

Both Sawt Al Shaab and Al Dustour, however, reported on Mr. Shbeilat's press conference and quoted from his attacks against the press.

Commenting on the controversy, Al Dustour columnist Mu'nis Al Razaz wrote in Sunday's edition that it was necessary to have access to truth when two sides claim contradicting statements.

"There must be an opportunity for our press to find the essence of truth concerning the human rights situation in our country in order to remove any darkness or distortion regarding this serious issue that should not be ignored," Mr. Razaz wrote.

In his Monday column, the same writer called on the government to permit journalists and lawyers to visit detention centres so that "we can know the truth of what happens behind these gates."

Al Ra'i, the Arabic daily with the biggest circulation in Jordan, neither mentioned the Freedom Committee report, nor reported on Mr. Shbeilat's press conference later on.

Chief Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed said that an independent editorial decision was taken not to publish because the committee's report was controversial at best, adding that it was not due to government pressure that his newspaper did not use it.

Mr. Kayed said that because there were divisions inside the Freedom Committee itself concerning the allegations and that nearly half of the panel's members did not endorse it, the report lacked the credibility and needed further investigation before a balanced story could be published.

"We are not committed to publishing everything that Parliament or deputies say and do especially when it is controversial," he said. "And generally speaking, the decision to publish or not is ours in the end," he continued.

Other journalists sources at Al Ra'i, who have been following the story, contended that the Freedom Committee, which comprises a large number of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamists, might have wanted to use the report in question as a political tool to attract public attention and gain popularity and publicity.

The sources, who did not want to be identified by name, said that not all of the 11 committee members actually signed the document, leaving doubt in their minds about the

credibility and accuracy of the allegations contained in it.

According to one source, some of the member deputies rarely attended the usual committee meetings, but "had suddenly shown interest in this particular issue regarding their own political gains."

"Where were the deputies who care so much about human rights in Jordan before this story of (Prophet) Muhammad's Army came onto the scene?" asked one of the journalists at Al Ra'i.

The Jordan Times also refrained from publishing the details of the detainees' treatment because it wanted a statement from the GID to react to the report when it appeared. However, the paper did publish a Reuters report on both the reaction statement and the committee's allegations.

"We wanted to print a balanced story on such a serious issue, but we did not have any statements from the side that was accused. When we received it, we published the story (Reuters) in a more balanced way," Chief Editor George Hawameh said. "Hardly a day or two afterwards, we wrote an editorial on the subject and called for an independent investigation into the whole issue."

Kamal Rashid, chief of Al Rabat, which carried the full text of the report, said that obstacles had been put in front of the issue which had carried the parliamentary committee's report.

Last week's issue of Al Rabat

was delayed for one day because the Press and Publications Department was slow in approving the distribution of the tabloid, Mr. Rashid told reporters during Mr. Shbeilat's press conference on Saturday.

He said that he intended to place paid ads in two major dailies apologizing to their readers for the delay in the distribution because the Press and Publications Department had not yet approved its entry into the Jordanian market.

Al Rabat is not yet licensed to publish in Jordan, and as such it is based offshore.

"The chief editors rejected publishing the ads in its original context and asked us to write that the paper was delayed due to reasons beyond our control, and we did," Mr. Rashid said.

He added that when the Ministry of Information called the following day to announce their approval, "they expressed their dissatisfaction for placing the advertisement even in its mild form."

Some journalists say that although the government does not interfere with what the papers do or do not publish, the publishers themselves find it difficult to take advantage of the democratic process in Jordan.

"Times have changed and there are serious attempts towards democratisation, but we have to remember that the majority of shares of these newspapers are still owned by the government," said a senior editorial assistant at one of the major dailies who did not want to be identified.

"And we have to remember that the publishers and editors in chief are the same ones who were in charge before the democratisation process, and are afraid of utilising their freedom, so they still take editorial decisions as though they were still living during the days of oppression," he added. These charges are generally dismissed as non-sense by the editors who insist that freedom of speech does not necessarily involve publishing everything that is said or done in the country. "Many people confuse the right to withhold publication of a certain story with the responsibility that goes with publishing it," said Mr. Kayed. "The issue goes way beyond what some of our honourable deputies believe to be the truth."

Mr. Razaz referred to this argument in his Monday column, where he wrote that there were still "undemocratic signs and mentalities and schools of thought in places of influence that are still affected by the pre-democratic phase."

Mr. Shbeilat charged that the democratic winds blowing into Jordan were "decorative and superficial."

"I have been a member of Parliament since 1984, and nothing in the press has changed since then," Mr. Shbeilat told reporters. "This is a decorative and superficial democracy which has not changed the reality of our situation; the power centres that still administer and run the country are still there."

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No. 17

Drawing of: Sep. 17, 1991

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 76507 Wins JD 25,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,000 each wins JD 100 76508 76517 76607 77507 06507 76506 76597 76407 77507 64507
Holder of ticket No. 31576 Wins JD 6,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60 31577 31586 31676 30576 41576 31575 31564 31476 32576 21576
Holder of ticket No. 48449 Wins JD 3,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30 48440 48459 48549 40449 58449 48448 48439 48349 47449 38449
Holder of ticket No. 31828 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 31829 31838 31928 32828 41828 31827 31818 31728 30828 21828
Holder of ticket No. 41485 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15 41486 41495 41585 42485 51485 41484 41475 41385 40485 31485
Holder of ticket No. 59691 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10 59692 59681 59791 50691 69691 59690 59681 59591 58691 49691
Holder of ticket No. 37403 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 37402 37413 37503 38403 47403 37404 37493 37303 36403 27403
Holder of ticket No. 76291 Wins JD 600	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 76292 76201 76391 77291 06291 76290 76281 76191 75291 66291

Ticket numbers	00164 37915 72051 19412	win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers	71682 32653 22159	win JD 100 each





TICKETS ENDING WITH

1032 8746 8765 3454 3888	Win JD 20 each	8501 1280 1648 9578 9624	Win JD 10 each
452 703 649 365 058	Win JD 5 each		
8000 tickets ending with Zero (0) Win JD 5 each			

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

40	covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in	377 280 163 426 827	Win JD 10
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Winners of the grand prizes to the ordinary issue number 16 of Sep. 2, 1991

									
Back Al Gold Assistant Pharmacist Half second JD 3,000	Kamal Al Saleh Abbas-Headed Half first JD 1,500	Al Saleh Al Abbas-Headed Full fourth JD 2,500	Muhsin Abu Muein Abbas-Headed Half fifth JD 750	Jabbar Dardas Abbas-Headed Half fifth JD 750	Emil Amarat Abbas-Headed Full seventh JD 1,000	Salam Abu Saad Abbas-Headed Half eighth JD 200			

Next Drawing takes place on November 2, 1991
First eight biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters

Moscow sends envoy to PLO

(Continued from page 1)

a letter outlining points of agreement between the United States and Palestinians.

"We hope there will be positive results," Mr. Hussein said. "Until now, we didn't solve yet the problems that are supposed to be solved."

Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian professor of English who also participated in the meeting, said: "Some of the assurances have to deal with the status of Jerusalem, with the objective of the whole process, with the freedom of choice of the Palestinian delegation, with other issues that are important."

She declined to give further details, saying "we still have several things to clear up."

Mr. Hussein told reporters

Moscow sends envoy to PLO

(Continued from page 1)

Tuesday's meeting focused on a letter spelling out U.S. positions on the peace talks.

Mr. Hussein, who left the meeting early to fly to London, said the U.S. letter would be shown to the PLO leadership abroad "so they can make a decision," Mr. Hussein said, he replied: "I don't have to answer that."

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Yugoslav

(Continued from page 1)

gunboats could be seen off Croatia's ancient walled city of Dubrovnik.

The navy began blockading Croatian ports Tuesday in retaliation for the republic's barricading of federal military barracks, further tightening the noose around the rebel republic.

The ceasefire declaration was signed by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Yugoslav Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic and Lord Carrington.

(Continued from page 1)

of 77-year-old British hostage Jack Mann.

"We remain cautiously optimistic," Mr. Tucknott said after visiting Mr. Mann's wife, Sunny, at her apartment in Beirut's seaside Raouche district.

Mr. Mann, a World War II and commercial airline pilot and later bartender at a Beirut pub, was kidnapped May 12, 1989. A picture of him was released by an underground group calling itself Revolutionary Justice Organisation last week, along with a statement that said he was alive and well.

Mr. Tucknott's comments came a day after the leader of the Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim fundamentalist Hizbollah damped hopes for an early hostage release.

Abbas Musawi said Israel's release last Wednesday of 51 Lebanese prisoners and hand-over of the bodies of nine guerril-

las was not enough.

"The ball's still in their court. The step was supposed to be bigger, to involve a bigger oom-ber or some of the symbols, like Sheikh Abdul Karim Obaid," Mr. Musawi told a Beirut news conference Monday.

Sheikh Obaid, 39, a Hizbollah cleric, was kidnapped by airborne Israeli agents from his hometown village of Jisheh in South Lebanon July 28, 1989. The Israelis claim he masterminded "terrorist" attacks.

The Israeli hostage negotiator, Uri Lubrani, spoke to reporters after returning from talks in Paris with Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

"At this stage, we don't have the information we asked for concerning the captured navigator Ron Arad and the other missing (Israeli) soldiers," Mr. Lubrani told the daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

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The International Russian Circus

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The Al Al -

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

Also reaching the quarterfinals Tuesday was Imad Abu Hamda, who beat Ibb Shehadeh 6-0, 6-4:

The other four quarterfinalists in the first round did not participate in the second round. On Wednesday Hani Al Ali

Fans are predicting another Ali-Abn Hamda final especially since the two top seeds hardly had any trouble in swiftly eliminating their opponents.

But FIFA, who were not informed in advance, said the official draw would be made in New

Francisco Figueredo Britez,

It also said new members such as the Baltic states would not be admitted until they had been recognised by the United Na-

FIFA also said the qualifying draw for the quadrennial tournament, to be held June 17 through July 17, 1994, will be held on Dec. 8 in New York City, not Dec. 7 as some announcements had said.

By Reuters

"As for the (European) Cup, it's wrong to speak of us as

have midfielder Erwin Koeman and defender Stan Valckx as

the last two seasons that we were capable of winning the European Cup. I think the new format

although they are now all involved in the united German

Olympic officials to show off a bit as it campaigns to hold the summer games in nine years.

IT'S WORTH THINKING ABOUT, ISN'T IT?

BE, DIDN'T DIDN'T HALF THINGS - TELL YOU-

57

Rowers banned after positive dope test

By Harris

**"Early to bed and early to rise
makes you miss the best programs."**

WHAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Answer: "  "

6 Ind. queen
7 Building
area
8 Mountain lakes
4 Approve

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠Q2 ♣AKQJ10 ♢J765 ♣Q10
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
 1 NT Pass ?
 What do you bid now?

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver

LAURE BARPA
ARIES STEAM
BELLCAPOO
SALMON HARBOR
BEST PIER
SAROTOWA
OVERS TAHOE
MOBILE BODIES OF
AMT BODY ARE
AMAR BRIST
AARIES TWO
PROTECTOR SHAT
VER IDENTIFYER
RAC FACILITY TO
OQA BRATE R

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 16/9/1991	Tokyo Close Date: 17/9/1991
Sterling Pound	1.7380	1.7421
Deutsche Mark	1.6746	1.6666
Swiss Franc	1.4622	1.4582
French Franc	5.7055	5.6945**
Japanese Yen	133.65	133.63
European Currency Unit	1.2225	1.2255**

1 USD Per STG
10 European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.43	5.43	5.56	5.75
Sterling Pound	10.31	10.06	9.93	9.81
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.12	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.00	8.00	7.68
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.31	9.31
Japanese Yen	6.96	6.50	6.18	6.06
European Currency Unit	9.02	9.02	9.75	9.75

Interbank bid rates for minimum exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.
Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	344.75	6.80	Silver	4.03	.090

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1930	1.1990
Deutsche Mark	.4100	.4121
Swiss Franc	.4095	.4118
French Franc	.1803	.1809
Japanese Yen	.5128	.5154
Dutch Guilder	.3638	.3656
Swedish Krona	.1125	.1131
Italian Lira	.0547	.0550
Belgian Franc	.01983	.01993

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7650	1.7700
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0772
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	---	---
Qatari Riyal	.1859	.1870
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7250	1.7400
UAE Dirham	.1859	.1870
Greek Drachma	.3600	.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.4700

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	15/9/1991 Close	16/9/1991 Close
All-Share **	116.79	116.96
Banking Sector	99.25	98.64
Insurance Sector	119.31	119.12
Industry Sector **	142.57	144.58
Services Sector	127.42	125.95

Business chief praises ant-like work habits

France announces tax breaks for small firms to combat record unemployment

BORDEAUX, France (Agencies) — French Prime Minister Edith Cresson Monday announced tax breaks for small business in a drive to revive a sluggish economy and combat record unemployment — but industry leaders dismissed the plan.

Government officials said that while small firms were the backbone of the French economy, they were less dynamic than their German rivals, partly because of financial frailty.

"France cannot trail behind Germany in the construction of Europe," Mrs. Cresson told a small business convention in the southwestern city of Bordeaux.

The Cresson plan involved using increased capital gains tax, which mainly targets banks and investment companies, to finance tax cuts and investment incentives worth 8.25 billion francs (\$1.45 billion) for smaller companies.

The government will raise an additional 11 billion francs (\$2 billion) next year by increasing capital gains tax.

Mrs. Cresson said the measures would be "funded by the proceeds of financial speculation."

The head of the French employers' federation, Francois Perrot, accused the government of "dipping into the pockets of one set of firms to help another."

Unemployment stands at 9.5 per cent of the workforce, higher

than in most international competitors, and is still rising.

Mrs. Cresson says small businesses, which employ two-thirds of the workforce, could make a significant contribution to creating jobs but only if long-standing weaknesses were overcome.

Apart from a lower corporate profit tax, which will benefit all firms, the biggest boost to small firms will come from a cut in the rate of the interim tax payments that they make.

To encourage investment, small companies will receive a tax credit if they increase their capital by at least 25 per cent.

Officials said the plan did not involve increased deficit spending for the government or a higher overall tax burden. The 1992 budget, to be presented to the cabinet Wednesday, would retain Finance Minister Pierre Bergey's tight fiscal constraints, they added.

"This is only a first step, a shot in the arm for certain areas the prime minister considers most urgent. There is more to come," one said.

The government also wants to tackle the slow payment of debts to small suppliers by big companies, which Mrs. Cresson says is at the root of many bankruptcies among small firms.

It will also address the poor export performance of French



Edith Cresson

small business compared to that of German firms and do more to ease foreign investment in French business, officials said.

Sharply lower than expected economic growth, forecast to reach barely one per cent this year, has hit government revenues and put pressure on budget plans for 1992.

Mrs. Cresson, whose public approval rating has plunged to barely 30 per cent just four months after her appointment, was greeted by demonstrators by aerospace workers and farmers in Bordeaux.

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Location: Shmeisani - opposite the Professional Association Complex - near Al Arab Insurance Company.
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VACANCY
Convocation: Free.
Post: Domestic Assistant.
Basic functions: Cleaning, Receiving phone calls.
Requirements: -Coming of age, -Be able to read & write, -In case of not being Jordanian, "residence permit" should be valid, -Languages: Arabic & English
Trial: Interview in Chancery on 24.9.91
Virtue value: Experience in similar work.
Experience value: 10 points: -References, 4 points, -Certificates, 3 points, -Languages, 3 points.
Law to be applied: Jordanian labour law.
Salary: 550,- dollars USA (before taxes).
Selection committee: Embassy of Spain in Jordan.
Observation: The selected candidate should pass a trial period of three months, before proceeding to a definitive contract.
Presentation of applications: Embassy of Spain in Amman, P.O.Box 454 From: 16.9.91 to 28.9.91 - Curriculum Vitae, - 2 pictures, - Photocopy of Residence or Identity card.

U.N. document promises more aid, debt reduction to Africa without specifics

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Wealthy nations promised to help reduce Africa's staggering debt and pledged more foreign aid but declined to commit themselves to specific targets, according to a document released Monday.

A committee of all General Assembly members ended 11-days of deliberations over the weekend on a U.N. recovery programme for Africa following the failure of a previous five-year plan.

Nevertheless the document, "The United Nations' New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s," sets a general goal of helping to reduce Africa's \$270 billion debt and provides for follow-up sessions in 1993.

Norwegian Ambassador Martin Huseid, who chaired the session, told reporters that he regretted there was not a higher level of representation at the conference but emphasised that the new programme was stronger on specifics than previous ones

and follow-up sessions would involve government activities and not only U.N. agencies.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar as well as most Africa states wanted governments to cancel official debt and work out ways to reduce monies owed to commercial banks and multilateral institutions. This is referred to in the document but nations are not committed in carrying it out.

The secretary-general also recommended an increase of aid to \$30 billion by 1992 from \$21 billion in 1989 and continuing to raise it by four per cent annually until the year 2000. The document approved this as a goal but left methods of attaining it vague.

In addition he proposed an African diversification fund for technical assistance to ease a chronic dependence on primary commodities. The new report recommends he undertake a study on the need and feasibility of such a fund and report to the General Assembly in 1993.

The report also recommended a target average growth rate of gross national product of at least six per cent per year for the 1990s and note that African nations could redirect military expenditures to other sectors of the economy.

Salim Lone, spokesman for the U.N. Africa Recovery Programme, said some African delegates were disappointed the document did not yield more. But he said others noted wealthy nations did commit themselves to more aid and more debt relief "and that's not a small thing to have from the West."

The past two weeks of deliberation were a follow up to a 1986 five-year programme that was seen as a watershed in committing wealthy nations to supply resources for development. In turn, African nations promised to restructure their economies, reduce waste and reallocate government funds.

Canada introduces back-to-work bill for striking workers

OTTAWA (R) — The Canadian government, arguing that the economy has suffered from a week-long public sector strike, introduced legislation Monday ordering an end to the work stoppage despite raucous protests by 20,000 demonstrators.

Opposition parties planned to block the bill's passage for several days saying that the ruling conservatives should negotiate and not legislate.

The strike by 70,000 workers, which entered its second week Monday, has paralysed grain shipments, caused flight delays at some airports and slowed goods moving across the border with the United States.

"The government is increasingly concerned about the impact the strike is having on the Canadian

economy and on individual Canadians," Treasury Board President Gilles Loiselle told reporters after introducing the bill.

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NOTICE
From The Honorary Consulate Of The Republic Of Cyprus in Amman
The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus in Amman announces that Mr. Mahmoud Mohammad Hamed of Amman is no more an employee of the consulate effective 12/9/1991, and therefore has nothing to do with the consulate's affairs.

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Erika Frieser
in a piano recital
Tuesday, September 24, 1991, at 8 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre
Works by - Brahms, Schumann, Mozart and Schubert
Tickets - for JD 5 each - are available at:
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- Goethe Institut - Amman, tel. 641993
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

VACANCY
Convocation: Free.
Post: Cook in residence.
Basic functions: - Daily menu preparation, - Preparations of official receptions.
Requirements: - Coming of age, - Be able to read & write, - In case of not being Jordanian, "residence permit" should be valid, - Languages: Arabic & English.
Trial: Interview in Chancery on 24.9.91
Virtue value: Experience in similar work.
Experience value: 10 points: - References, 4 points, - Certificates, 3 points, - Languages, 3 points.
Law to be applied: Jordanian Labour Law.
Salary: 750,- dollars USA (before taxes).
Selection committee: Embassy of Spain in Jordan. The selected candidate should pass a trial period of three months before proceeding to a definitive contract.
Observation:
Presentation of applications: Embassy of Spain in Amman, P.O.Box: 454 From: 16.9.91 to 28.9.91 - Curriculum Vitae, - 2 pictures, - Photocopy of residence or Identity card.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7428/38	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1355/60	Canadian dollar
	1.6702/12	Deutsche marks
	1.8825/35	Dutch guilders
	1.4580/87	Swiss francs
	34.41/45	Belgian francs
	5.6850/6900	French francs
	1250/1251	Italian lire
	133.68/78	Japanese yen
	6.0870/20	Swedish crowns
	6.5490/5540	Norwegian crowns
	6.4500/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	346.35/346.85	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Hopes of an interest rate cut and a stronger yen drove the market higher but it surrendered some early gains. The Nikkei Average closed 309.18 points up at 23,443.61.

SYDNEY — The market slipped slightly as rising local currency offset expected gains from New York's rally overnight. The All Ordinaries closed 1.3 points down at 1,555.8.

HONG KONG — Stocks finished easier after a day of listless trade. The Hang Seng Index dropped 14.82 points, closing at 3,938.71.

SINGAPORE — Stock prices closed lower in thin trade. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 9.79, closing at 1,394.88.

BOMBAY — Prices fell after the Bombay stock exchange banned forward trading in 20 volatile shares to calm an overheated market. The BSE Index closed 33.80 points down at 1,878.55.

FRANKFURT — Modest buying in the chemical sector pushed shares higher in thin trading. The Dax Index gained 4.80 points to finish on 1,634.55.5.

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ICA'S LAW
Mahmoud Abdul Aziz
Athar Al Hakim
Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
The Big Town
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571
NUJUM
To Be Opened Soon
Nabil Mashini
Theatre
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155
RAINBOW
ADVENTURES OF TENNESSEE BUCK
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Yugoslav Navy blockades Croatian ports

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav Navy blockaded seven ports in Croatia Tuesday and the army launched fierce punitive attacks in a major blow to ceasefire talks with European Community (EC) peace envoy Lord Carrington.

The navy blocked the ports of Split, Pula, Rijeka, Zadar, Šibenik, Ploče and Dubrovnik from early morning, cutting a vital economic lifeline to the rebel republic in retaliation for a blockade of military bases by Croatian forces.

Croatian Radio said the navy and army joined forces in a land and sea attack the southern city of Šibenik and the army made big gains in the south and northeast as it tried to liberate military bases captured by Croatian fighters.

The radio reported seven more deaths in heavy fighting across the republic, including two foreign reporters, taking the death toll in the last four days to about 60.

It said the fiercest battles were at a strategic bridge near Šibenik and around a military base in the northeastern town of Osijek. Air-raid sirens wailed in the Croatian capital Zagreb for the third successive day.

Lord Carrington, chairman of

an EC peace conference on Yugoslavia, arrived in the southern Adriatic resort of Igalo where he was due to meet the warring sides.

He held out little hope of success in the closed talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milošević, Croatian President Franjo Tuđman and Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijević.

"I don't expect anything. What I hope is that as a result of this meeting we may find that there is a real and genuine ceasefire throughout the whole of the country," he said after flying into Yugoslavia Monday night.

The talks are sure to cover an EC proposal to send armed peacekeeping forces to Yugoslavia, an idea which Serbia opposes.

But the EC is divided over Yugoslavia, its efforts to end the bloodshed have so far failed and Croatia has threatened to pull out of peace talks if the fighting gets worse.

Fighting began in Croatia when

The Serbian-led armed forces have been deployed in Croatia to act as a buffer between Croats and Serbs, but the Croatian authorities accuse the military of backing the Serbs.

In a sign that the clashes could suck in the rest of Yugoslavia, Belgrade newspapers said Tuesday that many towns outside Croatia had started mobilising volunteers.

The sea blockade will be a huge economic blow for Croatia if it holds, severing key supply routes. Rijeka is the port where oil arrives for passage to Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

In the first known application of the blockade, an Italian ferry, the Tiziano, was prevented from entering Split harbour.

"All ships and floating craft are banned from either putting in or leaving the listed ports. Any disrespect for this decision will be treated according to the rules of the Yugoslav Navy's combat use of forces," Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said.

"The Naval Regional Command points out that it has decided to take such a step after several days of full blockade applied to barracks, military schools and academies, hospitals and other military facilities as well as

mistreatment of the military." Croatia has cut off water, food and power to federal military installations on its territory and says it has forced the surrender of hundreds of soldiers.

The army replied with a tough statement Monday, saying: "Our patience and endurance have reached the limit... all those who attack the Yugoslav army will be annihilated."

In a new offensive that has forced Croatian units to retreat in southern Croatia, army tanks moved to within a kilometre of a key bridge in Šibenik controlled by the Croatian forces and a fierce battle was raging, the radio said.

A 22-hour battle with mortars and artillery continued around army barracks taken by the Croats in Osijek.

The radio said more than 1,000 mortars rained on villages in the nearby Nova Gradiska area and seven people were killed, including two unnamed foreign journalists.

Yugoslav President Stipe Mesić called Monday for an emergency debate in the United Nations Security Council and appealed for peacekeeping forces to be sent to Croatia and Serbia. Serbia, the biggest republic,

opposes sending any foreign troops, adding to the obstacles to an accord in Igalo.

Italy said Tuesday it would be willing to send troops to Yugoslavia as part of a Western European Union (WEU) peacekeeping force.

Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis has received approval from President Francesco Cossiga, who is head of the armed forces, to participate in a force if the WEU decides to send one, the Foreign Ministry said.

Foreign and defence ministers of the nine-nation WEU will meet Thursday in the Hague to consider a proposal to send troops to act as a barrier between the warring factions in Yugoslavia.

Portugal said Tuesday it opposed sending a European peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia and preferred U.N. troops be used in the event of external military intervention.

"We are talking more about blue helmets (U.N. peacekeepers) than a European Community force," Foreign Minister João de Deus Pinheiro told foreign journalists.

But he said: "I don't see at this moment any chance of putting in a force to separate the two sides."

Philippines delays U.S. pullout until referendum

MANILA (R) — The Philippine government told the United States Tuesday it could delay withdrawing its troops from the country until a referendum later this year on whether they should stay.

President Corason Aquino said she would hold the referendum in an attempt to overturn Monday's landmark decision by the Senate to reject a new military treaty with Washington and evict U.S. forces.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told Washington Tuesday in a diplomatic note that the Philippines would hold the referendum before the end of December to decide whether U.S. forces would remain in the former American colony.

"It is our definite and sincere perception that the people want the treaty and we're going to give them a chance to approve it," Mr. Manglapus told a news conference.

Because of the planned referendum, Mr. Manglapus said American troops would not have to start withdrawing immediately despite the expiry of the lease on its military bases.

On the day the old pact expired Monday, the Senate rejected a new treaty negotiated by Mr. Manglapus which would have let U.S. forces stay for 10 more years in return for \$2.2 billion.

The decision to end the almost century-long U.S. military presence prompted dancing in the streets by anti-bases demonstrators.

But Mrs. Aquino, helped to power by the United States in a popular revolt five years ago, is determined to keep U.S. troops, saying her heavily-indebted country needs the money.

CIA nominee contrite as confirmation hearings start

WASHINGTON (R) — Robert Gates, President George Bush's choice to run the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), admitted Monday that he had mishandled his role in what became the Iran-contra scandal.

But Mr. Gates, in an opening statement before the Senate committee weighing his nomination, said then-CIA Director William Casey kept him in the dark about the affair.

Mr. Gates told the Senate Intelligence Committee that he wanted to speak about "the misjudgments that I made and the lessons I learned."

Mr. Gates was Mr. Casey's deputy when the scandal began rocking Ronald Reagan's presidency in late 1986. Mr. Casey died in May 1987.

The affair, made public in November 1986 by then-Attorney General Edwin Meese, involved dodging a congressional ban on aid to Nicaragua's contra rebels by sending them profits skimmed from secret arms sales to Iran.

In a 67-part questionnaire released by the panel, Mr. Gates said he was unable to recall his role in events related to Iran-contra in at least 33 instances, according to one count.

Several senators criticised Mr. Gates for his professed lack of knowledge about the diversion of funds to the contras.

"You were absolutely surrounded by the truth — how could you possibly not know? As number two man at the agency,

9 killed as Pretoria seeks to implement pact

THOKOZA, South Africa (R) — Shantytown residents said police shot and killed two people in a pre-dawn clash Tuesday and blacks hacked and clubbed seven fellow blacks to death in South Africa's township conflict.

Police said they were fired on with AK-47 automatic rifles while patrolling the Phola Park squatter settlement east of Johannesburg at about 2 a.m. (midnight GMT). They returned fire and residents

said two people were killed.

"Approximately 20 rounds were fired and a constable Hattings was wounded in his left leg. Police returned fire, but were unaware of anyone being hit," police spokesman David Bruce said.

Another police spokesman said one man was later found dead with a gunshot wound in the chest, but it was not clear whether he was killed by police. Residents blamed police for

the incident.

"They just opened fire on residents and killed two people without any provocation," said local leader Prince Mhlambi.

Police jostled with reporters and television cameramen who tried to film the bodies of the two dead men.

In Soweto, gunmen shot and killed an Inkatha member in a train, bringing to 14 the number of people killed in political violence since Sunday.

Jackson urged to make 3rd bid for presidency

WASHINGTON (R) — Backers of two-time Democratic Party presidential candidate Jesse Jackson have urged him to make a third try for the nomination, a top aide said Monday.

Rev. Jackson, 49, a black civil rights leader, plans to make a decision "within several weeks," spokesman Frank Watkins said.

About 250 people from 29 states met with Rev. Jackson here Sunday in a discussion that lasted until nearly midnight.

Rev. Jackson is considering an offer from Cable News Network (CNN) to be host of a television show under contract terms that would not allow him to seek the presidency.

The liberal Rev. Jackson got over seven million votes in state primary elections in his 1988 bid for the nomination. He has repeatedly told reporters that he could win against President George Bush, a heavy favourite to win re-election on Nov. 3, 1992.

The U.S. presidential campaign is livening up with a widely divergent Democratic Party field finding common ground in attacks on President Bush's domestic policy.

Five months before Iowa and

New Hampshire become the first states to select nominating delegates, three official Democratic challengers are in the race and at least three others are lining up to face the popular Republican president.

Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, 51, an unabashed liberal, became the third announced candidate Sunday, joining Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder, 59, a fiscal conservative who announced Friday, and former Senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, 50, a moderate, who would be party reformer, who declared on April 30.

Other weighing entry include Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, 45, a political moderate, Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, 48, a liberal former governor and Vietnam War hero, and former California Governor Jerry Brown, an unorthodox liberal.

Congressman Dave McCurdy, an Oklahoma moderate who chairs the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee but is little known outside Congress or his home state, is also thinking about running.

All face a formidable challenge if they win the right during the Democratic presidential nominating convention next July in New



Jesse Jackson

York to face Mr. Bush, who is expected to formally announce his re-election bid in early 1992.

Mr. Bush, the most popular president in over 50 years of modern opinion surveys, has seen his 90 per cent approval rating slip since its peak as the Gulf war ended in February, but nevertheless it is still high at about a 70 per cent rate.

Yet, in an apparent contradiction, surveys show little approval of Mr. Bush's coping with the economy — rising slowly from recession — and other domestic concerns less than 14 months before the Nov. 3, 1992, presidential election.

Also, a majority of people tell pollsters the country is on the wrong track, representing a pessimistic populace.

4 troops die in heavy Sri Lanka fighting

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka troops have pushed to within 400 metres of a major rebel base in the northeast despite fierce resistance, a military spokesman said Tuesday.

The spokesman said four soldiers were killed and 30 wounded in heavy fighting Monday near Camp Michael, a key rebel position. He said the rebels were believed to have suffered heavy casualties.

The camp is one of about 15 in

the dense jungles of Mullaitivu occupied by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are fighting for their own homeland in the north and east.

Soldiers, backed by the air force, launched Operation Lightning Strikes on Aug. 29 to flush out about 1,000 Tigers at the bases. They have captured one camp so far.

More than 500 guerrillas and 49 soldiers have been killed in what the army has called the biggest-

ever jungle battle with the rebels.

A bomb blast at a Tigers' office in the northern rebel-controlled Vavuniya district injured 14 civilians and four rebel fighters, residents said Tuesday.

The bomb exploded Monday at the office where passes are issued for civilians to travel to and from the rebel-controlled north, they said.

There was no indication of who planted the bomb.

U.S. Supreme Court nominee accused of toning down views

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee members accused Clarence Thomas of being evasive and abandoning his conservative views Monday as they questioned the nominee for a seat on the powerful Supreme Court for a fifth and final day.

Mr. Thomas, 43, a black federal judge, was nominated in July by President George Bush to succeed Justice Thurgood Marshall, a liberal and the first black on the high court, which rules on the constitutionality of U.S. laws.

The court's decisions sometimes have ripples throughout the daily lives of Americans. Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, said

Judge Thomas had toned down his conservative ideology to seem more moderate and mainstream.

"I continue to have major concerns about your nomination and your commitment to fundamental liberties," Sen. Kennedy said.

The committee of eight Democrats and six of Bush's fellow Republicans is holding hearings to decide whether to recommend Judge Thomas's confirmation to the full Senate.

Sensors said Monday that they expected Judge Thomas would be confirmed.

"If he was voted on today he'd get Senate confirmation," said Senator Howell Heflin, an Alabama Democrat. But Mr. Heflin said he had not made up his mind

which way to vote and could not predict how the committee would vote.

Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, the Republican critic of Judge Thomas, said he expected the judge would be approved and would join one of the conservative factions of the nine-member Supreme Court.

"I think he is going to be a member of the revisionist court. The question is which branch?" he said.

The court under the leadership of Chief Justice William Rehnquist is called revisionist because it is rolling back many of the decisions on social issues made during the years when liberal justices were in the majority.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Albania joins CSCE

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Albanian President Ramiz Alia said he would return home and remain in office despite mass demonstrations last week in the capital, Tirana, demanding his resignation. "The democratic process has begun in Albania. (There is) a transition to a new system of society which is based on market economy, on a multi-party system... and a respect for human rights," Mr. Alia told a news conference. "The fact that people are free to express their views also of the president shows that democracy is advancing, that people say what they think," Mr. Alia said. "I have been elected by parliament and I will be responsible to the parliament." Mr. Alia spoke to reporters after signing the Helsinki Human Rights Accord, making Albania the latest country in Europe to formally join the Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE). The signing ceremony was held in Finlandia Hall where 35 world leaders put their names on the 1975 document aimed at reducing East-West tensions.

Soviet foreign minister to visit Sweden

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin will visit Sweden Tuesday to study the country's social and economic system, his spokesman has said. Spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a news briefing Mr. Pankin would spend two days in Stockholm "to draw the attention of Soviet public opinion to the Swedish experience in economic and political structures." Mr. Churkin said Mr. Pankin would then fly to New York for a session of the United Nations General Assembly. He suggested Mr. Pankin could stop elsewhere on his return to Moscow early next month but ruled out a visit to the Middle East for the time being.

India captures 136 rebels in Assam

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian soldiers captured 136 guerrillas and smashed 12 rebel training camps in the oil-rich state of Assam, news reports said Monday. The operation began Sunday night and included the use of aircraft, United News of India (UNI) reported. Troops sealed the state borders to prevent rebels of the United Liberation Front of Assam from fleeing. The crackdown in Assam, a state 1,500 kilometres east of New Delhi, followed a week of strikes by more than 47,000 workers of a state-owned oil company. The workers were protesting the killing of a colleague kidnapped by rebels.

N. Ireland bomb kills policeman

BELFAST (AP) — A bomb exploded near the village of Swatragh 55 kilometres northwest of Belfast early Tuesday, killing a policeman and injuring three soldiers, police reported. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn attack. Police headquarters in Belfast said in a statement that the explosion occurred as a joint police and British army patrol consisting of four vehicles was crossing a bridge just outside the village.

Drug dealer testifies against Noriega

MIAMI (AP) — A former drug dealer with a \$3 million price on his head took the stand in Manuel Noriega's drug trial and recounted the workings of the Medellín cocaine cartel without mentioning the former Panamanian dictator. Max Mermelstein, who said he imported 55 tonnes of cocaine into the United States, was first Monday in what is expected to be a long parade of traffickers-turned-informants to testify for the prosecution. Mermelstein, who is in the federal witness protection programme, has said Colombia's Medellín cartel offered \$3 million for his death when he was arrested in 1985 and began cooperating with the U.S. government. He told the court he joined the cartel in the early 1980s. U.S. district Judge William Hoeveler asked courtroom sketch artists not to draw Mermelstein's face.

Bush concerned about Angolan peace

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush met Monday with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and expressed concern with what he said was slow progress in implementing the peace agreement that ended the country's 16-year civil war last May. The unusual meeting between a U.S. president and the leader of a country which the United States doesn't recognise brought a promise from Mr. Dos Santos that troop movements covered by the peace agreement would be completed by the end of the month, a senior U.S. official said. A statement issued by White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater emphasised the concerns Bush expressed during the meeting but Mr. Dos Santos told reporters afterward he was pleased with the Oval Office visit.

Germany's largest lift bridge collapses

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — A Polish freighter has rammed Germany's largest lift bridge in dense fog, collapsing an 84-metre section of the span into the Elbe River in Hamburg. One person was injured, police said. The freighter Stanislaw Kulczynski, which had a harbour pilot on board and was being escorted by a tow boat, slammed into a fixed section of the bridge instead of passing through the mid-section that had been lifted, port authorities said. One of two bridge operators received slight injuries.

Zaire national conference resumes

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire's much-delayed national conference on political change has resumed after a break of nearly a month but disordered in uproar almost immediately. Opposition delegates tried to storm the podium and tore up an official report on conference accreditation after Chairman Isaac Kalonji refused to let a member of the anti-government Union for Democracy and Social Progress take the floor. Troops intervened to restore order and escort Mr. Kalonji from the hall. It was not clear when the conference would resume.

Pakistani columnist shot dead

LAHORE (R) — Gunmen shot dead Pakistani newspaper Columnist Mian Abdul Rashid in what Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called a "terrorist" act. Mr. Rashid's relatives were quoted by police as saying the attack at the family house was carried out by two unidentified gunmen who escaped from the scene. There was no information about the motive of the murder of Mr. Rashid, who has been writing Islamic religious columns in the Urdu-language daily Nawa-i-Waqt (Voice of the Time).

Kaifu apologises for remark

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Premier Toshiki Kaifu, anxious not to offend powerful allies in Washington, apologised Tuesday for saying U.S. politicians lacked ethics. Mr. Kaifu told parliament last Friday politicians running for the United States Congress were unethical because they used excessive campaign funds. "I don't think American candidates observe very strict ethical codes (in campaigns)," he told a lower house panel. Fearful of a backlash from the United States, Mr. Kaifu decided to apologise after consulting aides over the weekend. On Tuesday, a solemn-looking Kaifu apologised before the same panel. "It was inappropriate of me to use the word 'ethics' in my remarks and I regret (the incident)," he said. "What I meant to say was that the United States does not have a system like ours... so there are no rigid restrictions on campaign spending as in Japan."

16 more die in Bangladesh floods

DHAKA (AP) — Rain-swollen rivers that inundated northern Bangladesh have started receding, but at least 16 more people have died in flooding, officials and news reports said Tuesday. The state-owned Bangladesh News Agency (BSS) said Monday's casualties from drowning and waterborne diseases raised the death toll to 245 in two weeks of flooding. The annual summer monsoon has caused rivers throughout the region to overflow their banks. At least two million people lost their homes or crops.



Want to win a marathon? Have your coach run some of it

BRUSSELS (R) — Algerian runner Abbas Tébani had a novel ploy for winning the annual Brussels Marathon — he got his coach to run the first 15 kilometres for him. Officials said Monday Tébani was immediately disqualified after he crossed the finishing line, raising his arms aloft in victory despite sharp-eyed journalists had spotted that the runner wearing number 62 had lost his shoelace and grown taller since the start of Sunday's race. The journalists reported this to race organisers, who discovered Tébani's coach had run the first part and then handed the jersey and number over to the runner. "We noticed that number 62 was taller, he did not have a shoelace," said one official, adding Tébani had hoped to collect the 250,000-Belgian franc (\$7,200) first prize. Tébani later disappeared and could not be traced for comment. Soviet runner Anatoly Karpenev was declared the winner in two hours, 15 minutes four seconds.

Hong Kong police swoop on fake bird's nest racket

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong customs officers have smashed a syndicate making fake birds' nests, detaining four women, one man and nearly 160 kg (352 pounds) of spurious nests. Genuine swifts' nests are regarded by Chinese as a medicine and delicacy. The government information service said Tuesday that officials began a week-long investigation after a customer complained about a nest he bought at a Hong Kong shop. A government laboratory found the fake nests to be composed of Malaysian tree gum, bearing the appearance of wet swifts' nests. Customs Department information officer Albert Lim said, "The five people will be charged under the British colony's trade description ordinance. Officials said it was the first such case in Hong Kong."

Matisse heirs give paintings to France in tax deal

PARIS (R) — The heirs of post-impressionist artist Henri Matisse have agreed to donate 36 works by modern masters to the French state in lieu of inheritance taxes, the Ministry of Culture said Monday. The ministry said Jacqueline, Paul and Pierre-Noël Matisse had offered a selection of works by Cezanne, Rouault, Dubuffet, Giacometti and Miro as well as 25 by Matisse to settle taxes on the estate of their father, New York art dealer Pierre Matisse, the painter's son. The Matisse works, which will go on display in the National Modern Art Museum in Paris's Pompidou Centre, are 13 sculptures and 12 paintings, drawings and gouaches. The Cezanne, to be displayed at the riverside Orsay Museum, is a portrait of the artist's wife. The ministry did not disclose the value of the works.

Indonesian civil servants put play before work

JAKARTA (R) — Four out of five Indonesian civil servants are late for work and most just play cards or read newspapers when they get there, the armed forces newspaper Angkatan Bersenjata said Monday. It quoted an official at the state-run Indonesian Sciences Institute as saying only 22 per cent of the 1.6 million civil servants in the capital Jakarta got to work on time, and most left early. Only about 20 per cent really did their job, he said. "The rest come to the office to read newspapers, play card games and are preoccupied with lottery numbers," the official told a meeting.

Israeli, 85, offers big bucks for bride

TEL AVIV (R) — An 85-year-old Israeli man is looking for a young woman to bear him a heir and is offering one million shekels (\$430,000) to the woman he decides is right for the job, the Hadashot newspaper reported Monday. "I will demand that she give me at least one child, but if she wants more I can handle five," Nafthali Strudler was quoted as saying. "Sex is very important in our agreement," he added. A picture of the elderly strudler sitting on an exercise bicycle appeared in several Israeli papers with reports of his offer.